

Challenges of Diaspora's Contributions to Nigeria 'S National Development: The British/American Case Study

¹Prof. AJAYI KUNLE, ²Dr. ADU FUNMILAYO MODUPE

¹Department of Political Science, Faculty of the Social Sciences, Ekiti State University, Ado –Ekiti

²Department of History and International Studies, Faculty of Arts, Ekiti State University, Ado -Ekiti

ABSTRACT: Since 1999, the Nigerian diaspora has received a lot of attention from government and other agencies in the attempt to further encourage their contributions. Their contributions however have not had a corresponding response beyond remittances. The challenge of development is a basic need of developing countries. The need to benefit from its diaspora is an important compendium for Nigeria, as in other developing countries. Some factors however constitute hindrances to the efforts of the diaspora. These factors include but are not limited to corruption, lack of infrastructure, lack of good governance, challenges facing democratic sustenance, amongst others. In the face of such challenges, this paper provides recommendations to assist the country to tap into the resource base of its diaspora. The paper focused on the American and British Diaspora Nigerians.

KEY WORDS: Challenges, Diaspora Contributions, Nigeria, National Development, Britain, America.

I. INTRODUCTION

Research has provided ample evidence to show that from the 1980s, the global economic recessions coupled with military interventions and political dominance created a hostile socio- political cum economic atmosphere that intensified migrations (African Foundation for Development, 2000, African Diaspora Policy Centre, 2011). For example in Nigeria, so many anti people policies were put in place by successive military governments such as; austerity measure, Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), War Against Indiscipline (WAI) and others (Adu, 2016:15). The harsh economic policies of the 1980s and 1990s, such as the SAP (a World Bank Programme of adjustment) further intensified unemployment and poverty amid stunted economic growth. This triggered the desire and actually forced so many young Nigerians to migrate to most European Countries and America in search of a better life (ibid). This growing population of Diaspora citizens creates a viable population of resource that can be harnessed by the Nigerian government and citizenry to benefit the country's development (ibid).

Between the 1980s and 1990s, the continued spate of migrations to the developed countries (consequent upon negative socio- political and economic climate in the country) increased the population of Nigerians outside the country. This growing population further increased with the introduction of the visa lottery which gave opportunity to migrants to emigrate with their relatives (ibid). It is also noted that, by 1999, emerging new grounds of democratic reordering brought the administration of President Olusegun Obasanjo. Obasanjo identified the need to tap into the growing resource base of the Nigerian Diaspora, a body of professionals, artisans, and students, who were interested in contributing to the development of the country. (Nworah, 2010 cited Obasanjo). To achieve these objectives, the Obasanjo administration went all out with projects and proposals to encourage the Nigerian diaspora to participate in development (Adu, 2016: ibid).

Importantly also, records have shown the growing population of Diaspora Nigerians to amount to about 15million in 2009 (Hagher, 2009, Nworah, 2010). For most educated Nigerians, Nworah recorded the United States of America and the United Kingdom has been the top destinations using 2003 data from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Presenting a similar picture, but with a breakdown by country that uses 2000-20001 census data, the University of Sussex's Global Migrant Origin Database reveals that nearly a quarter of Nigerians were in Sudan, with 14 percent in the United States, 9 percent in the United Kingdom, 8 percent in Cameroon, and 5 percent in Ghana, much smaller populations were scattered around Africa, Europe and Asia. (Cited in Nworah, 2010) (Adepoju also corroborated the fact that the highest flow of Nigerian immigrant is to the United States and the United Kingdom, Adepoju, 2010, Mberu, undated).

Migration studies in research, international discourse and policy circles have also identified African countries as being on the receiving end of concerns in the developed north (Oucho, 2008). The 1970s and 1980s, with emigration of professionals and the best educated was outrageous deprivation of human resources very much needed by the upcoming independent countries. From the 1990s, African international migration has been viewed as an important resource for development in African countries because of remittances, but Oucho noted that there is no unanimity of evidence and conclusions drawn from existing literature, insisting that more work is still required on the Diaspora, migration and development index (ibid).

Arising from this substantive facts are the problematic of this study which are - Destination country assessment of Diaspora's contributions to national development is few and restricted to remittances and contributions of professionals (ibid, Nworah, 2010). It is also important to recognize that, challenges to Diaspora intervention create an important bridge preventing the Diaspora from contributing to the development of the state. Such challenges, after being identified need policy suggestions to overcome them. These then created the lacuna which this research intends to fill to assist Nigeria's development.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF DIASPORA NIGERIANS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Nigerians in the diaspora have variedly contributed to Nigeria's development as noted by political analysts, journalists, politicians, academicians, stakeholders, the World Bank and others. World Bank records show that Nigerians in the Diaspora contribute more to the nation's economy than (34) thirty four of the country's thirty six (36) states (World Bank, 2012). In a recent World Bank report, a total of 21 billion dollars was remitted back home during the course of year 2012. The World Bank's remittance unit's report also indicated that only Lagos and Rivers States have higher Gross Domestic Products (GDP) than the amount remitted back home by the diaspora (Nigerian Diaspora in the British Diaspora and Nigeria's Development, Undated).

Lagos State recorded GDP for 2012 is 33.67 billion dollars while that of Rivers State is 21.67 billion dollars. (ibid) On a country unit bases, the United States remitted 12.26 billion while the United Kingdom 7.76 billion in 2012. Records also show that Nigeria is fifth in the global remittance table behind India, China, and Philipines and Mexico whose diasporas sent 70 billion dollars, and 24 billion dollars back home respectively. (ibid). In 2011, the diaspora population was more than many states in Nigeria. The bank recorded that, in the UK for instance, the population of Nigerians is in excess of 2 million, higher than the population of Bayelsa State which is 1.9 million. (ibid) The World Bank also records, remittances are said to account for 5% of total National GDP (World Bank report, 2012)

Diaspora Nigerian organisations, individual, and corporate bodies and their transnational interventions can bridge over ethnicized boundaries of belonging to articulate and pursue visions of Nigeria's national development. Lampert insists that:

While they are involved in the politics of belonging and the progress of "home" in ways that are clearly much more ambivalent than globalizing discourses of diaspora and development might hope their potential for contributing to a unified and prosperous Nigeria should not be dismissed. (Lampert, 2009:9)

Chakhalyan (2007), discussing the potentials of Armenian Diaspora for economic development, noted Frienkman's critical assessment of the Armenian Diasporas homeland involvement. Chakhalyan (ibid) argued that Diaspora's role in mobilizing and generating humanitarian assistance and foreign development aid has adverse effect on the country's democratic development and economic reforms (ibid). Frienkman is quoted as noting the Diaspora's assistance efforts as being inefficient to homeland development agenda. (Cited in Chakhalyan, 2007:9). Further Chakhalyan (ibid) noted Tatul Manasarya's argument that the lack of strategic approach to (the) development agenda has been the major impediment that has not been properly addressed by both the side of the diaspora and the homeland. This negative opinion notwithstanding, the diaspora has major positive impact on the development of their home countries.

Available records show that organizational efforts such as with Non-governmental organisations, ethno-religious bodies and social organisations have made positive concerted efforts to build the homeland and also to assist the homeland in development, especially in poverty alleviation. Professional associations have also made notable impacts, especially the associations of medical physicians. Remittance record the most popular and notable effort of diaspora in poverty alleviation and overall development of thier locality. The World Bank records that in 2010 overall remitaance to Nigeria and most developing countries surpassed the ODA and foreign Aid from the developed countries. (World Bank, 2012)

The institutionalisation of Diaspora Bond has also been seen as a veritable source of development intervention in infrastructural development of Nigeria. Noting the relevant inputs of the Diaspora to homeland development, the African Diaspora Policy Centre, in its 2011 submission, noted that:

The Diaspora has emerged as a major developmental actor in an increasingly independent and globalizing world. It is now widely acknowledged that as trans-nationalized individuals, groups, and communities, the Diaspora – with their accumulated financial and social capital – are capable of making significant contributions to the political and socio-economic development of their home countries. (African Diaspora Policy Centre, 2011:1).

It is further noted by the Centre that, these Diasporas acquired knowledge and entrepreneurial management of business enterprises.(ibid). They maintain contact with business partners and potential investors in their host countries to facilitate investment in trade and production outfits in small-and-medium-scale factories (ibid). Influential social positions necessary to engender political outcome in their host countries in favour of their home countries is also an advantage that cannot be neglected.

The former Nigerian Minister of Trade and Investment, Olusegun Aganga, claimed that “the country is leveraging on the large Diaspora population in the UK and the USA who can actually be the catalysts – those agents for trade between the two countries (Aganga, 2013). It is important therefore to look at what the Nigerian Diaspora has so far contributed or initiated in development intervention for homeland.

II. DIASPORA INITIATIVES

The “Common Ground Initiative” an organization co-funded by the UK Department of International Development (DFID) and implemented by Comic Relief: a UK-based charity with a long-standing commitment to small and Diaspora organisations has contributed variedly to the country’s development. They focus on long term development, they bring new skills to project with innovative approaches to development. This initiative assist diaspora and small organizations to access funding and support and raising of awareness. It also provides a pool of knowledge on the role played by Diasporas in development through conducting an extensive study on the subject (Business News, 2011).

The initiative offers various types of grants for projects in Africa. Such as; the Primary Health Care Programme, both aimed at increasing access and improving the quality of health care and education while encouraging greater community involvement, specifically targeting marginalised groups. The third is the enterprise and employment programme, which targets entrepreneurs, small businesses and producer organisations, seeks to promote creative and productive relations between African and Diaspora entrepreneurs and enable innovative and sustainable enterprise initiatives (internet source retrieved 18/6/13). This programme was launched in October, 2009 and Nigeria has benefitted out of 73 project grants awarded for African countries. (Cited in *Business News*, November 3, 2011).

ARISE Nigeria launched a new page on its website to showcase initiatives by individual Nigerians in the Diaspora to support key sectors in development. The report was to detail what was done, how, and tips for others wishing to do similar activities to present examples of good practice to encourage and challenge all Nigerians to consider how they can use their knowledge, contacts and resources to support the Nations development. Seminars were also organised by this group on saving Nigeria by Nigerians in the Diaspora(Showcasing Initiatives by Nigerians in Diaspora, 2013).

INVESTMENT

Diaspora Nigerians have variously invested in shares and stocks and are showing interest in the newly introduced bonds. During the 2008 Global Economic meltdown, the withdrawal of shares and stocks from the Nigerian capital markets, caused a distabilization, the Diaspora investment leverage was a significant revelation on the market.(ibid) There has been initiatives of diaspora engineers to participate in the energy communication and transportation sectors.

In 2006, Nigerian Diasporas and their home counterparts met together and identified the needed areas of investment as Bio-technology, food security, nutritional engineering, infrastructure, health care, financing, education and capacity building (ibid).

POLITICAL

The Nigerian Diaspora has contributed to the development of political consciousness in Nigeria through acting as catalyst. Under military regimes for example, Diaspora Nigerians represented a critical unit of the Nigerian intelligensia who were able to act against the tyrannical governments; they equally played a significant role that complemented the role of actors in Nigeria in the form of conferences, media pressure and demonstrations, agitating for transparent democratic governance in Nigeria etc. NADECO has an arm abroad and had forced a return to democracy (Shuaibu, 2013).

Diaspora political socio-economic groups campaign for democratic reforms as part of development in Nigeria. The 1990s witnessed the UK-based Nigerian Diaspora foundation of the pro-democracy organisation, the United Democratic Front for Nigeria-Abroad (UDFN). Also, the National Democratic Coalition (NADECO-Abroad) was an external wing of NADECO-Nigeria, it coordinated the activities of pro-democracy movements in Nigeria and in recent times continue to campaign for constitutional amendment in Nigeria (ibid).

The involvement of the British and American Diaspora in monitoring and acting as a watchdog of true democracy has been very positive. On the election of President Musa Yar'adua in 2007, a coalition of activists, protested the "Sham" elections on the 7th, 10th and 12th May, Nigerians and their international friends demonstrated in Britain, from the Hyde Park, speaker's corner to the House of Parliament, from the Nigerian High Commission to 10 Downing Street, the official resident of the Prime Minister. In line with this, an NGO, the Nigerian Democratic Initiative (NDI) and Coalition of Democracy in Nigeria (CDN) filed their letters of protest to the UK parliament (8th May 2007) and the European Parliament (10th and 11th May 2007), which advised judicial intervention. The European Parliament in Brussels, the President of the EU Parliament expressed the hope that Nigerians will lead the way in the direction that they would like their country to go (ibid).

The groups claimed to have acted or represented the views of the Transition Monitoring Group (TMG), the European Union Monitoring Group (Team), The Commonwealth Group of Observers. The US-based International Republican Institute, the Local Nigerian Joint Action Forum, the National Democratic Institute etc. Their action initiated the apology from President Yar'adua but justice was denied the electorate (ibid). The All Progressives Congress, UK chapter, also criticised President Jonathan on militarising elections (The Nation, Monday, August 4, 2014).

Diasporas also do engage directly in politics in Nigeria. They sponsor fellow diasporas and Nigerian resident candidates to stand for elected positions in Nigeria. For example, indigenes in Diaspora endorsed Boroffice, a governorship candidate for Ondo state, Nigeria, for governor in the next election (<http://t.co/m12ctz823v/s/TXcy> via @todayng, Assessed 13/2/2016). They sometimes also set up their own political parties through making financial contributions, in addition to setting up local branches in their respective countries of residence (Nworah 2010). They have returned home as successful politicians and power brokers, as state governors (Fayemi), Federal ministers, and aids to the president (source directly from their Diaspora locations e.g. Ngozi Okonjo Iweala, two time Minister for Finance). Dr Mrs Oby Ezekwesili was recruited from Havard University, where she was director, to champion government Due Diligence efforts as head of the office of Budget Monitoring and Implementation in the presidency (ibid).

In the 2007 election, Prof. Isa Odili, a Nigerian Canadian was one of the registered candidates for the presidency in Nigeria. He did not win the seat but he won a landmark victory at the Supreme Court upholding the right of Diasporas to contest elections in Nigeria (Shuaibu, 2013). In 2009, the Court of Appeal in Nigeria also upheld the rights of the Diasporas to vote at elections but this has not materialised. For example, there was Diaspora political support for governor Segun Oni of Ekiti State, and governor Kayode Fayemi (oral Interview, Bruce, 2015, Adefolaju, 2014). A new organisation, Yar'adua-Jonathan Solidarity Forum, Home and Away (YISFHA) UK chapter was established to galvanise and promote the seven points agenda of the administration; power and energy, food and security, wealth creation and employment, mass transportation, land reform, security and qualitative and functional education. This and more are encouraged by the Diaspora to assist in the promotion of good governance.

INSTITUTIONALISATION OF DIASPORA FOR DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTION: DIASPORA NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

The stepping up to and contributions of Diaspora Nigerians started before independence in 1960 "Nnamdi Azikiwe, Obafemi Awolowo, Sir Tafawa Balewa, amongst others rose to the occasion and midwived the birth of an independent Nigeria" (Oparaaji, 2013). In the institutionalisation of the June 12 democratic mandate, Edward Oparaaji, Hafsat Abiola, Kienwa Obaseki, Kofi Egbo, Kayode Oladele, Frank Ekhaton, Mohammed Ighile, Edwin Udenkwo, Wale Alade, Kayode Fayemi, Bolaji Aluko and various Diaspora Nigerian Organisations and many

others, helped build and exercise the international muscles that defeated the Nigerian Dictatorship during the June 12 struggle (ibid).

United States Diaspora based NGO groups such as: The Nigerian Democratic Awareness Committee (NDAC) and Eastern Mandate Union (EMU) – Abroad, successfully prosecuted ex-Nigerian Dictators, Abdusalam Abubakar, Ibrahim Babangida and others in the US courts for human right abuses, and for many years kept them avoiding setting foot in US (ibid). EMU-Abroad also took an official position on constitutional review and published an official position on the internet to link and dialogue with groups and individuals with similar agenda for a possible summit to adopt an action plan towards building a truly democratic Nigeria with a true legitimisation of the law of social contract and success towards building a truly democratic Nigeria (ibid).

The Development Impact for Nigeria (DIFN) aims to develop volunteer programmes utilising the skills of UK based Nigerians and other interested individuals and groups in the area of development, youth and community work, social work, education, community health social policy development and local government administration.(Oparaoji, 2013)

ETHNIC PROFESSIONAL DIASPORA

The Council of Ogoni Professionals International, a Nigerian diaspora group in the United States, criticised the Goodluck Jonathan administration of a pardon for former Bayelsa State governor, Alamiyeseigha Diepreye. Other ethnic diasporas, such as the Tiv diaspora, Ekiti, Ijebu, Oyo, Hausa/Fulani, Tarok, Igbira, Ogoni and other ethnic diasporas hold monthly meetings in country of residence and sometimes undertake development projects in their villages in Nigeria. Ethnic professional groups also visit for professional contributions in development (Nworah,2010).

NIGERIAN DIASPORA ALUMNI NETWORK (NIDAN)

The Nigerian Diaspora Alumni Network was established to work in concert with private and public sector leaders, fostering contribution, adding value to the Nigerian development, economy, policy, and cultural values, and enabling leaders of thought at home and in the Diaspora to explore, discover and continuously support ideas for improving Nigeria's development, social, cultural and foreign policies and its management(NIDAN document, untitled) (African Diaspora Policy Centre, 2011: 9)..

This is aimed to be achieved through research conferences, interaction with policy makers, business and financial economic and industrial leaders through development summits, position papers, proceedings and others. Bringing Bureaucrats, technocrats, economic leaders decision makers, media academia and other persons in Nigeria in contact and in collaboration with Diaspora to foster development (ibid).

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER SERVICES (NNVS)

The National Volunteer Services (NNVS) is set up by Nigerian government to give the Nigerian professionals in diaspora a formal avenue within which to volunteer their skills while in Nigeria on a short or extended visit. The NNVS was established in 2003. Housed in the office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) and with offices across the 36 states of Nigeria. Uniquely, the Nigerian legislator features a committee on the diaspora in the Federal House of Representatives, to initiate policy for harnessing the potential of Nigerians in the diaspora in support of national development and growth. (African Diaspora Policy Centre, 2011:9).

With the determination to explore more ways to integrate Nigerians abroad in national development, the Federal Government used the NNVS to initiate the establishment of NIDO and also to compile a database on the contributions of Nigerian groups abroad to various programmes and events at home (Internet Guardian, 2013). The coordinator of NNVS, ambassador Joe Keshi, the immediate past Nigerian Consul General in Atlanta, US disclosed that the NNVS “proposed” to begin the compilation of an annual report on the contributions of Nigerians in the Diaspora to Nigeria's development. Such a report, he further stressed, would highlight all contributions – whether projects, (investment nature or community development) scholarship schemes, medical (humanitarian missions etc) embarked upon and executed by various associations, organisations and individual(ibid).

The National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) and the NNVS at the end of year press conference on NAPEP activities for 2006, launched the NAPEP Diaspora Giveback Programme for the Nigerian Diaspora. The Giveback Programme essentially, commits NAPEP/NNVS to match any fund donated or committed by any Diaspora Individual, groups, organisations or associations for community development at home. In other words, any amount donated for development activities at the community level will be matched by NAPEP. This is part of an attempt to fight against poverty through greater emphasis on mobilising resources for community development(Diaspora Giveback Program, 2011)

NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA ORGANISATION (NIDO)

Though the Nigerian government sponsored the setting up of NIDO to mobilize, coordinate and act as liaison to tap the abundant resources of the Diaspora, the organisation, whose leadership came from the Diaspora, is recognised by both government and diaspora as a reliable source of censoring professional diasporas to assist in Nigeria's development (Ani, 2006). To tap into this important resource base, the organisation initiated a compilation of a database of contributions of diaspora groups and individuals. This is expected to be in form of the name of organisation or individual project, description, location, commencement year, completion year and beneficiary (community, local or state government) and total cost of project (ibid).

NIDO's vision and mission statement is anchored on the philosophy of using human resources of professional Nigerians to enhance the development of Nigeria and Nigeria's image abroad. A refined and highly regarded information tool to enable linkages of Nigerian skills and expertise abroad with Nigeria's government, industry and academic sector to meet their workforce, training and economic development needs, to uphold liaison objectives with representative bodies having objectives similar to that of NIDO. Also to encourage the spirit of patriotism and support the contribution of the Diaspora in the affairs of Nigeria in the promotion of image (Nigerians in Diaspora Organisation Europe Website) (Nigerians in the Diaspora, Seminar Paper, 2009).

NIDO was established in the year 2000 with headquarters in London. It is the largest assembly of diaspora Nigerians, and the official platform recognised by government. It partners with public and private businesses in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), professional networking, stakeholder, advocacy and skill transfer to Nigeria. To be a member, one needs to have university degree or its equivalent, persons with professional or vocational certificates, integrity, proven track records and comportment (ibid). By 2011, its identified areas of priority included trade and investment (as priority), policy, political reform, youth empowerment/employment, education – particularly basic and vocational education – health and security. NIDO inaugurated Diaspora Trade and Investment Mission to states of Nigeria. It started with Osun on 23rd August 2012. Between 24th – 26th January 2013, a Nigerian Trade Forum was hosted in London. NIDO aims at creating a Nigerian Diaspora National Development Strategy (DNDS) to articulate financial and intellectual equities of Nigeria deposited abroad and articulate how to use this for development across the private and public sector (ibid). NIDO partners with ministries, departments and agencies (MDAS) across Nigeria. NIDO is a 19 chapter organisation dotted around Europe and America. NIDO, in the face of Nigeria's developmental challenges, promised to expand resources on trade and investment missions across Nigeria as well as hosting trade missions in Europe and other capitals across the world (ibid). NIDO has played very significant roles in reducing negative and ignorance based criticisms of Nigeria at the international level (Nigerians in Diaspora May Vote in 2011 polls, 2009).

In partnership with the Nigerian government, the Nigerian Diaspora Day has been observed between June and July every year since 2000 to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Nigerians living abroad. In 2001, NIDO Europe set up a two hundred million dollar investment fund to help fast track development in Nigeria. Potential diplomatic rows, and other problems affecting Nigerians abroad had been resolved through NIDO. Government contacts and state governments in Nigeria have also used their citizens abroad under the NIDO platform, as avenues for high level visits to attract investors, seek new equipment and mutual trade opportunities, government appointments have also been given to Diaspora citizens such as Iweala and Ezekwenzili. (in 2013 and later) (ibid).

The activities of such bodies resulted in heightened awareness of the Diaspora at the National Assembly, which has given backing to Diaspora issues through the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Senate and the Diaspora Committee in the House of Representatives (ibid).

GLOBAL DATABASE OF NIGERIANS IN THE DIASPORA

The Global Database of Nigerians in the Diaspora (GDND) was launched on Sat. 21st February 2009. This project was conceived and developed by the European arm of NIDO and unveiled by then Speaker of the Nigerian House of Representative Rt. Hon. Dimeji Bankole (CFR), who declared "we have come to pick your brains" "we need your resources, your ideas, and access to your contacts, give us your ideas and resources and we will provide the legislative backing that would enable you to make your contributions to national development" (Bankole, 2013). The launch was sponsored by Fidelity Bank PLC of Nigeria, Bank PHB and United Bank of Africa, hosted by the Nigerian High Commissioner to the Court of Saint James (London) (Speaker Bankole Unveils Software, 2013).

According to Nigeria's High Commissioner to the UK (2009), Dalhatu Sarki Tafida, in the global economy of today, access to knowledge and to those who possess such knowledge serve as an ingredient to national economic development efforts. The Federal Government, he said, supports the database, with the hope that it will assist in the formulation and execution of policies that would transform Nigeria and launch it into one of the best 20 economies

in the world by the year 2020 (cited in Akinmade, 2013). Diaspora citizens have lost confidence in the database, thus the essence of braingain is defeated. An unidentified internet commentator noted:

As for me, and many other Nigerians in Diaspora, who have worked assiduously in the past utilizing our personal resources to ensure that the vision of developing our nation and rebuilding its shattered image will no longer wish to be partakers of such initiatives (ibid).

Since January 2009, when the Nigerian Diaspora Database was launched in the UK and attended by the Hon. Abike Dabiri, there has not been further development and the population of the Nigerians in Diaspora has always remained a guesswork. Scepticism from Nigerians in Diaspora has limited the success of registration on the database, not because they are illegal immigrants, but due to the fact that there has never been a full disclosure regarding the custodians of such database, its justification, and frequency of updates plus monitoring. It is also a fact that there is no certainty on data protection (due to several interpretations from country to country). Visits and events organised abroad by Nigerian legislators are perceived by Diaspora as “Holiday Packages” (Fatusin, 2013, “Them and Us – A Diaspora Perspective”). As noted by Chukwujekwu (2013), “the building towards the development of a nation starts from the heart. It starts with the people, in this case, our young youths and generation”.

ECONOMIC

Interest in investing in Nigeria is rising due to the creation of awareness by diaspora/Nigerian government activities and despite the negative fallout of solo terrorist activities in Britain and the US. On May 2, 2013, a team of British entrepreneurs, led by Lord Mayor, City of London, Mr Alderman Gifford visited Lagos, Nigeria to deepen investment relationship between the two countries, under the auspices of United Kingdom-Nigeria Investment Forum. (Maku Tasks Nigerians in Diaspora on Partnership, 2013).

On a courtesy visit to Governor Fasola, the Mayor commended the contributions of Nigerians in Diaspora, particularly the business group towards the development of Lagos. Interestingly, a member of that British team, Mr Michael Adeyeye, a Nigerian and current Mayor of the London Borough of Brent, canvassed for greater investment collaboration between the two countries. (Secretary Action Congress of Nigeria, 2013). In July 2011, a group of Nigerian trade missions from the Diaspora concluded a three-week investment drive to some states of Nigeria. They called on the Federal government to expedite action on the provision of an enabling environment as a morale booster to fast-track their return home to invest in the national economy. This joint effort with the Central Association of Nigerians in the United Kingdom (CANUK) lamented the problems of insecurity and decayed infrastructure (Maku Tasks Nigerians in Diaspora on Partnership, 2013). They visited Kogi, Kwara, Oyo, Bayelsa, Cross Rivers and the FCT, Abuja. Expensive accommodation and local flight are listed as problems, irregular power supply, cultural and language differences across the country, lackadaisical attitude of stakeholders to time-keeping are listed amongst others as bottleneck. CANUK showed a serious intention in mobilising the over 2 million British Nigerian Diaspora but wanted Nigerian government intervention in the areas earlier listed (ibid).

CANUK was working in collaboration with the British-African Business Alliance, Friends of Nigeria Investment Network and the Business Council of Africa. A Nigerian Diaspora Direct Investment summit was slated for June 21-22, 2012, to further promote investment drive. The Jonathan Transformation Agenda was also expected to assist in ensuring a viable local advantage for promoting investment (ibid).

REMITTANCE

The World Bank(2012) recorded that money sent home by the Nigerian Diaspora is going into socio-economic development. It is used for services like health, housing, business start-ups and education. The World Bank Population Reference Bureau report said that most of money sub-Saharan migrants send home is spent on education, health care, buying land, building houses, starting business or improving farms, such remittances also provide a tremendously important source of financial support, boosting incomes that can be irregular, particularly for those working in seasonally-affected occupations – from a national perspective, financial remittances have been shown to substantially affect a nation’s balance of payments and foreign exchange revenues. Williams (2013) noted;

From a national perspective, financial remittances have been shown to substantially affect a nation's balance of payments and foreign exchange revenues. Studies that link remittances and investments show that remittances stimulate growth. Cape-verde, Guinea Bissau and Senegal are striking examples of the impact of remittances on poverty. (ibid).

Williams (2013) concluded that by any measure, Africa's Diaspora has clearly returned huge sums of money to Africa, showing that Africans are by far the biggest donors and financial contributors to African development.

Oladele (2011) recorded that scientific studies across West Africa have shown that countries such as Senegal, Ghana and Nigeria hugely benefit from remittances from citizens abroad. A comparative study between such monetary remittances and the Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) found out that in certain cases, remittances are far higher than ODA which has resulted into criticisms about the relevance quantum and social impacts of ODA(*ibid*).

Further, Oladele (2011) suggested that if the plethora of Diaspora related conferences in Europe and the USA is anything to go by, Africans overseas are not ignoring the needs of their home countries but are actively engaged in supporting economic and skill development in Africa. Further, Diaspora organisations and communities ranging from professional associations to alumni groups, have established a wide variety of projects and initiatives to support development within their countries of origin and for years, numerous hometown associations have also channelled financial and other resources between the West and Africa.

World Bank(2012) report shows that Nigerians in the Diaspora remitted the sum of ten billion US dollars to Nigeria in 2008, a 4.7 percent of the year's GDP (Gross Domestic Product). The report also ranked Nigeria as the 6th highest recipient of Diaspora remittance in 2008 and up from US dollar 1.54 billion in 1998. Chukwuma Soludo (2013) recorded that the World Bank's figures, recorded remittances of about 10 percent of Nigeria's GDP in 2012 (about 21 billion dollars (this he (Soludo) claims is controversial). The current estimate as at 2016 is fluidly put at 480billion dollars (unofficial).

The Nigerian Diaspora Remittances (NDR) has impacted positively on poverty alleviation and wealth creation.(NGEX, 2013). This informal welfare system has guaranteed survival to many relations of dependants of Diaspora Nigerians. They have paid for medical bills (interestingly, this has become an advertisement point for certain banks e.g. Heritage Bank, First Bank, etc), school fees, burials and social activities and set up small businesses at home. It could be said that they have assisted in combating virulent poverty in the homeland. It is also suggested that the money they send home helps to stabilize the foreign exchange demand. (The Nigerian Diaspora, NGEX, 2013).

Mberu (African Population and Research Centre, Poland. undated) recorded that while the value of remittances to particular regions and sectors is not available, a 2005 World Bank study found that remittance recipients are located predominantly in Nigeria's Southeast and Southwest regions, and common uses include family expenses and social security for the elderly, the disabled, and orphans. Other major uses include education of relatives, payback for sponsorship of migration, business development and financing of existing businesses, and funding of special occasions like funerals, weddings, and holidays (e.g. Christmas and Hajj) (Mberu, undated). Nigerian economist Una Okonkwo Osili found that Nigerian expatriates make substantial housing investments in their communities of origin and suggested that these investments may be first stage of a broader financial relationship between Nigerians in Diaspora and their homelands. (*ibid*).

On Feb. 5, 2013, the Speaker of the House of Representative, Aminu Tambuwal(2013) lauded the impressive contributions of Nigerians in the Diaspora towards sustainable national development. At a day workshop organised by the international migration office and United Nations office on Drugs and Crime in collaboration with House Committee on Diaspora headed by Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, the Speaker further stressed with optimism that "our Diaspora has enormous potential to help create opportunities in our country to contribute to socio-economic development and poverty reduction and to improve the quality of lives in Nigeria." (*ibid*) 'It is important to note that Diaspora remittances in terms of human capital, philanthropic contributions, capital market investments, tourism and social remittances such as innovative ideas and newly emerging technologies contribute immersely to the development of Nigeria. In many low and middle income countries, remittances make a good share of GDP, going as high as 30% in some cases. In Nigeria, it is recorded to account for 5% of total national GDP. Key among the Nigerian Diaspora communities are those of the US and UK which remitted 12.26 billion dollars and 7.76 billion in 2012 (*ibid*).

DIASPORA BOND

The important need to divert some of the funds remitted to Nigeria for consumption into investment opportunities resulted into the call for diaspora bonds. Dilip Ratha of the World Bank, noted the importance of remittances to development but belief that it is not enough to tap the income of migrants abroad noting that poor countries should also tap their savings by selling diaspora bonds. (Diaspora Bonds, 2013).

The Chief Economist of the African Development Bank group released an Economic Brief on the application of diaspora bonds in an African context drawing lessons from diaspora bond issuances in Israel, Ethiopia

and India. In a paper titled *Diaspora bonds: Some lessons for African Countries*(2013), it was noted that tapping migration wealth could be an effective means of funding development on the continent. Africa could potentially raise 17 billion dollars annually by using future flows of exports or remittances as collateral. Securitization of remittances could be used to raise short-to-medium term financing by African banks. Nigeria had been available on the international market on regular bond issuances since 2011 and 2012 (ibid).

Diasporas are noted to be patriotic and patient because of their long term tie with the issuer, less jittery due to access of local information and sanguine about currency risk because the money can be reinvested in homeland (Diaspora bond,2013). Ethiopia's recent diaspora bond issue flopped because migrants who fled oppressive governments hardly wish to bankroll the regimes that drove them away.

Diaspora bonds are used to raise funds to finance infrastructure and development projects and for foreign exchange stabilisation.. The Head of Nigeria's Debt Management Office (DMO) proposed it. It is also proposed to introduce inflation linked bonds to develop the domestic bond market. The former Nigerian Finance Minister, Ngozi Okonjo Iweala(to 2015), is a keen advocate of tapping the wealth of migrants to finance infrastructure projects in their home countries, a minimum of 55 years is proposed for the proceeds that would be used for "specific, commercially viable projects". It was proposed to open to "friends of Nigeria, communities or investment funds" in the diaspora. Nwankwo (cited in *Diaspora Bonds: Some lessons for Africa*, 2013) said "we are working hard to make sure we structure it in a manner that is consistent with the preferences of the Nigerian Diaspora and at the same time satisfies our need to mobilise the resources to fund the provision of critical national infrastructure and development projects (ibid).

Bonds are a debt security instrument with a maturity of more than one year, tradable on the financial markets. Diaspora bonds are issued by the country to its own diaspora to tap into their assets in the destination country, as an alternative to borrowing from the international capital market, multinational finance institutions or bilaterally from governments. The practice dates back to the 1930, China and Japan and was later followed by Israel and India in the 1950s- Israel (from 1951), India (from 1991). Diaspora bonds are used to finance large scale infrastructure, development projects in the private sector, For foreign exchange stabilisation and are generally used by a country to implement its development strategy. Proceeds of diaspora bonds could be earmarked to projects with appeal to the diaspora, such as infrastructure projects, housing and social amenities. It is a new source of resource mobilization. In the post Sanusi Sack saga, analysts have predicted low subscription to Federal government bonds (<http://t.co/IXVtTMPGY9>), this is not so however as Prof Michael Umeadi cited 300billion dollars as the 2016 estimated value of bond contribution to Nigeria(source: 'The Diaspora this Week' NTA international,Thursday26th March,2016).

Nigeria has issued the diaspora bond since the beginning of 2012 (proposed since 2009), but several factors were given by diaspora citizens as hinderances to the success of this project. Sceptic diaspora citizens are doubtful of government ingenuity and transparency in managing the peoples wealth. Importantly, Nigerian diaspora citizens noted in oral interview(Oke,2013, Adeyeye, 2013, Owoeye,2014) that, with the perception of high corruption "among government officials, weak justice system and lack of continuity in governance/policies, sadly many diasporas have lost millions to failed banks of the 1990s. The success of this project therefore requires a lot of ingenuity and perserverance (*Diaspora Bonds: Some lessons for Africa*, 2013).

REBRANDING NIGERIA: THE ROLE OF NIGERIANS IN THE DIASPORA

Onwutolabi (2009) defines Rebranding of Nigeria as redefining our concept of nationhood and engaging wholly in the process of national renewal to attain a height where national interest must be exalted far and above personal, ethno-religious and regional interest i.e. the renewing of our dreams, hopes and aspirations. It is the total re-dedication and re-commitment to the dictates of our national anthem, and our pledge as sacred oath of allegiance to our country, it is to rekindle the fire of patriotism, not as a conditional loyalty and love to a nation, but as an unflinching and unconditional love and loyalty to the nation.

This (to the diaspora) as noted by Onwutolabi (2009) "will become our own task where the domestic and international image of the nation matters to all and sundry", a shared common national destiny. The creation of the ideal that nation building was not a destination but a journey. A re-direction of the regional ethno-religious polarisation, to re-build the pre-colonial interdependency on one another's commerce, distinct culture, and traditions which dates back prior to amalgamation of the Northern and Southern protectorates in 1914 (ibid).

There is need to search for a new and formidable national identity, there is need to overhaul the walls described as Dichotomy. Imo/Anambra dichotomy, Ijebu/Ekiti dichotomy, Hausa/Yoruba, Christian/Muslim, military/civilian, majority/minority, rich/poor, male/female, young/old, Ibo/Hausa, Edo/Igbira dichotomies, a national challenge that has deterred national growth, insisted Onwutolabi (ibid).

There is need to stop stereo typical attitudes, and terminate the ancient political deadlock embedded along party, tribal and religious lines. There is need to fortify our once existing unity, and with a common sense of purpose, rediscover the virtues of hardwork, patriotism, personal responsibility, optimism and faith and redraw a picture of a glorious nation where men and women alike are not judged by tribe, religion or geographical placement. Rebranding, therefore is an important work for diaspora Nigerians as it is for other citizens of Nigeria(Oladele,2009). There is need for national renewal and a bridge of every wall of dichotomy to forge the unity of Nigeria. This has only materialised in the fight against dictatorship. The issue of ethnic and dichotomy separatedness is important to diaspora citizens who face racial problems in their migration destinations. The diasporas presentation of a limited front in their destination country will positively impact on the nations patriotism and eradication of separatedness (ibid).

VOTING

The right to enfranchisement is one of the key aspects of involvement in governance. Nwaneri (2012) explained that under the leadership of Chief Gobe Okoye, the concerned citizens (in Diaspora) earlier in 2012 submitted a memorandum to both the Senate and the House of Representatives Committees on constitution amendment on the right of the Diaspora to vote in elections, particularly the presidential, governorship and national assembly elections(ibid).

Before former President Jonathan's "Niamey Declaration" in which he promised constitutional amendment to input a decision on Diaspora voting, the then president had sent a proposal to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), to enable it study and look at the possibilities of citizens living outside the nation's border to take part in electioneering process as obtained in other advanced democracies (ibid).

Also, before the "Niamey Declaration", some Nigerians in the Diaspora, under the aegis of Diaspora voting right implementation committee had commenced moves to enforce their voting rights through the collection of one million signatures for what they termed "Nigerian Diaspora Voting Rights Petition". This would have assisted in further integrating the diaspora into nation building and the development of various Nigerian states. *The National Mirror* quoted a Canadian (unnamed) – based Nigerian as saying, "A working relationship will develop between the governors and the citizens of their states in Diaspora who can also act as watch dogs of democracy"(ibid).

The right of Nigerians to participate in the election process was strengthened by an action in the high court sitting in Abuja initiated by a number of Nigerians including; Hakeem Bello, Bolaji Aluko, Baba Adom, Uzoma Onyemaechi, all Nigerians residing abroad. Citing Article 13 (1) of the African Charter of Human and Peoples Rights, Section 77, 117, 132 and 178 of the Nigerian constitution. On December, 2008, Justice Adamu Bello ruled favourably for citizenship participation in voting with rights to be voted for. Establishing the judicial endorsement of the constitutional entitlement of the Nigerians in Diaspora to direct participation (Onyearu,2013).

The Senate was later to disapprove with excuses ranging from lack of reliable records by foreign missions, financial constraints arguing that the cost and logistics of the policy outweighs current federal capacity and vacuum in legal framework. To them, taking voting rights outside the country would only add dangerous international dimensions to this local problem, another arguments was wastage of tax payers money. The bill also met with opposition at the House of Representatives when the bill was presented in October 2011 by the chairperson, House Committee on Diaspora, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, who argued that Nigerians abroad deserve the opportunity to vote, considering the over 20 billion dollars in remittances they contribute annually to the nation's economy (ibid).

Further, a political school of thought led by Prof. Macharia of the United States International University (USIU) had argued that citizens abroad are likely to fall to political propaganda if allowed to participate in the electoral process of the home countries(ibid). Nwangi Kimenyi, a senior fellow and director of the African Ground Initiative was of the view that the missing link in the discussions is the responsibility of the Diaspora in supporting the operations of the governments they would help to elect. He said "In all African countries, there are no requirements for citizens living abroad to pay taxes on incomes earned abroad (cited by Nwaneri, 2012).

The citizens dwelling outside the continent have the right to vote and determine how they are governed; they also have a responsibility to pay tax for the operation of their governments at home. Nwaneri (2012, unpagd) further argued: Considering that members of the Diaspora have incomes higher than the median incomes of their home countries, giving them the right to vote without requiring tax payments is a luxury that African countries cannot afford. Rights must come with responsibilities. The debate then should progress beyond implementing voting logistics of taxing the Diaspora. Such as allowing for deductions for taxes paid in other jurisdictions.

Nwaneri further noted that:

It is against this hard stance that Okoye urged his members to be ready for the struggle now that the constitution amendment has offered another opportunity.(ibid)

Nwaneri further citing Okoye, reported thus:

Let us for now not worry about what those members of the National Assembly who oppose us will do, because in the words of Martin Luther King Jnr. In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends, so, get off the fence, get involved, take action, sign the petition and together we shall overcome it. (cited in Nwaneri, 2012: unpagged).

With this advice, he charged Diaspora parents to make sure that their children over 18 years sign the petition, saying:

This fight is also for their future, they should be able to exercise their options as full citizens of Nigeria, not as second class citizens. We are full fledged citizens of Nigeria by constitutional definition and it is not a crime to live outside the borders of Nigeria, in search of greener pastures. It is our right and we must fight for it; remember power is not given, it is taken. (Cited in Nwaneri, 2012: unpagged).

Other arguments in support of voting rights cited examples of the major political parties, which have overseas chapters whose Diaspora members are active and contributing to their funding but lacks power to vote during the primaries to pick flagbearers as well as the main elections. As noted by Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, there are approximately eight million Nigerian Diasporas that infuse over 20 billion dollars into the economy annually, and this magnitude of socio-economic strength should not be one to be ignored at home (ibid).

Nwaneri (2012) quoted the opinion of a PDP, US Diaspora that “infact the diaspora community qualifies as the 37th state in Nigeria”. Therefore, “justice demands the passage of a voting right bill which is in essence a step in the full official recognition of the Diaspora community as an integral segment of the polity”. The Nigerian ANPP (All Nigerian People’s Party) Chairman expressed support for the plan, and reported that his party was making efforts to open special branch offices overseas in preparation for the move (Dr. Ogonnaya Onu, National Chairman of the ANPP) (ibid).

The Chairman of PDP, (Ghana Chapter) Board of Trustees, Eze Chukwuchi Iheneto, told *National Mirror* in an interview (cited in Nwaneri, 2012) that the realisation of the Diaspora voting right will, apart from strengthening the bond between the Diaspora and the home-front, facilitate effective “mobilisation and utilisation of the enormous expertise and resources in the Diaspora for the nations development”.Iheneto (cited in Nwaneri,2012: unpagged) further said:

The fact that about 28 African countries have approved Diaspora voting for their citizens abroad implies that there are inherent socio-economic benefits in the exercise and since Nigeria cannot rank below the 28 countries, it means that the cost and readiness argument are untenable.

Other factors in support are the positive economic advantages of high diaspora remittances to support relatives. Contributions through investment in productive activities that support economic growth and job creating and INEC’s indication that it is ready for the exercise once the relevant legislative ammendments are finalised (ibid). INEC Chairman, Prof. Attahiru Jega, pointed that, for the Nigerians living in the Diaspora to be given the opportunity to participate in the 2015 general elections, there was need for adequate technology to be put in place and a consensus reached on the methodology to be adopted (ibid).

This positive direction is however dicey based on if there is the consideration of the fact that Prof. Maurice Iwu, in 2007 (then INEC Chairman) had proposed four English speaking countries, including Britain and the US as pilot countries for Diaspora voting, but the inability of the National Assembly to ammend Section 77 (sub-section 2) of the constitution which provides that only Nigerians, resident in the country can register and vote in elections, frustrated the initiative. Further, President Buhari (cited in Adetayo, 2015)insists, although the idea was futuristic, a lot of steps would be taken to make it become a reality, listing problem issues to include ammendment of the electoral act and building of confidence in the electoral process.

Importantly, there are about 115 countries and territories, including nearly all developed nations that have systems in place to allow their emigrants to vote. This as noted by a Camerounian opposition party member in the Diaspora is described as “the end of the era of the electoral apartheid”(ibid). Kenya 2013 March, Cameroon 2011 have granted their Diaspora citizens a voting right (cited in Nwaneri,2012: unpagged). The Ghanaian Progressive Peoples Party (PPP) Presidential candidate, Dr. Papa Kwesi Nduom said that:

Expertise, views, interest, ideas, and values are worthy of inclusion in our collective drive for development. We undermine democracy and our creative potential by freezing the views and expertise of some of our own people, educated by tax payers. The PPP wants to build an inclusive society and cannot exclude parliament for citizens who live abroad and US and Britain permit citizen’s resident abroad voting rights. Twenty-one African countries in a 2006 study show that their emigrants are allowed to vote.(ibid).

The social media-Twitter, facebook and YouTube are now used to assist the country follow credible election process. Civil society groups powered by social media and the Nigerian diaspora are trying to help make Nigeria’s election processes credible. This will establish viable democracy in the country. The 2010 elections were monitored through this social media networks. Twitter, the micro-blogging website is full of conversations preceded with so called hash tags like “Nigeria Decides”. One group of internet Nigerian activist called “Enough is Enough Nigeria” uses Twitter and Facebook to encourage voting, as well as discuss the process, and point out any irregularities (ibid).

It is important, in the view of Onyearu (cited in Nwaneri, 2012: unpagged), a Diasporan, to establish the Diaspora commission giving executive “bite” to achieving objectives of the Diaspora in the country. Creation of electoral constituencies in the UK and US and other European states to produce elected representatives to the National Assembly, allocation of ministerial and executive positions are points of interest to diaspora citizens (ibid).

Opposition to the suspension of the voting rights bill has been expressed by various diaspora groups. (UK groups opposed the suspension of the bill *Daily Trust*, 2013). They noted it was a “collective disenfranchisement of innocent citizens”. The groups insisted if the bill is passed, then the cost of conducting elections could be funded from the Diaspora.

Ms Jenny Okafor, President of Nigerian Women in Diaspora Leadership Forum supported this argument, she insisted at a London interview – (leadership forum, 2013). “It amounts to discrimination and breach of our fundamental human rights”. She reiterated that the reasons cited for the suspension of the bill such as costs, geographical spread of Nigerians abroad and the timing were not made “in good faith.” In order for true democracy to prosper, every Nigerian of qualifying age, mind and character, whether at home or abroad, must be able to vote. Mrs Grace Owoeye, a US based diasporan resident in Los Angeles, California insists that it is an expression of failure in citizenship right. it is further reported that, such ideas were supported by the Association of Nigeria-British counsellors. Other African countries with less resources and technologies are creating enabling environment for their Diaspora to vote (Leadership Forum, 2013).

GOVERNMENTAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ON EDUCATION

The former Minister of Education, Professor Ruqayyatu Ahmed Rufai implored the Nigerians in the Diaspora to partner with the Federal Government to develop the nations educational sector. She stated this while addressing participants at the 4th National Diaspora Conference on 26th July, 2010 in Minna, Nigeria (cited in Nigerians in Diaspora Invest in Education, 2013)). She further noted that the Nigerians in the Diaspora had strived to complement the efforts of government in the areas of health and education. She further encouraged them to intervene in school adoption, and rehabilitation, provision of equipments like computers and accessories, upgrading of libraries and school laboratories. Such a conference, as noted by the former minister enables the Diaspora to identify the need for their contributions to national development (ibid).

At a maiden visit of Diaspora Nigerian Academics to the National University Commission, on 26th July, 2010, the then executive secretary Professor Julius A. Okojie commented that the Nigerians in Diaspora Organisation (NIDO) constituted a veritable platform for academics to contribute to national development(ibid). He encouraged the Diaspora academics not to be deterred by seemingly difficult environment. The aim of the diaspora delegate was to seek ways on how the Diaspora could share their experiences on the best practices in university management and to help improve the system, especially in capacity building (cited in Nigerians in Diaspora Invest in Education).

The idea of a necessary strategic planning on university needs was coined from this dialogue. This is to facilitate such exchange programmes in order to make such interactions beneficial to the system. It was also suggested that a Network of Academics in Diaspora would be created to facilitate interaction and make this possible through improved communication link with the NUC. Also, information strategy by the NUC for the benefit of the Diaspora was advocated (ibid).

A non-governmental organisation “The Nigerian Higher Education Foundation (NHEF) with support from the John and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, was launched in 2004 as an independent, not-for-profit, non-governmental organization that seeks to enhance the quality of education in Nigeria, through direct support for five universities. Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, Bayero University in Kano, University of Ibadan, University of Nigeria, Nsukka and University of Port Harcourt. It holds an annual Banquet since 2009 to honour all the accomplishments of some distinguished leaders for their commitment to sustainable development through education and serve as inspiration to all Nigerians in Diaspora. The essence is to highlight the significance of progressive education and enlighten the minds of capable individuals and corporations to better understand that the most plausible way to bring social and economic change to Nigeria is through education and to bring to light the detrimental effect, the lack of equal educational opportunity is having on Nigeria(ibid). In 2010, an Education Summit was held in New Jersey, by the Committee of Deans of Post Graduate Colleges in Nigeria, on how to partner the Diaspora for development of Education in Nigeria.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

According to the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (based in Nigeria), Diaspora Nigerians return home to seek employment or business opportunities. The transfer of knowledge through Expatriate Networks Programmes of the United Nations Development Programme provides the rationale for the networking between Diaspora and countries of Africa (Nigeria should Target Diaspora Investors,2013). Some Diaspora citizens have returned to establish small scale industries in their locality. An example is a quarry located at Igbemo –Ekiti, in Ekiti- State (oral interview with Adefolaju, March, 2014).

YOUTH SUMMIT

Nigerian Diaspora Youth leadership summit was held in London at the Kings College, on August 2012, to bring together young Nigerian leaders, youth and students. Participants reflected on Nigeria’s past, present and future leadership from political, economic, social and cultural perspectives. It presented an opportunity to empower and sensitize participants about the need for young people to take leadership roles and lead change in Nigeria using their talents, skills and advanced knowledge. The summit also featured the mentoring cafe, a unique programme to bring together 100 selected Nigerian youth and potential leaders to interact in Nigeria, learn and network (Aug. 2012) key note speakers urged Nigerian students to rise up and drive the modernisation agenda (Nigerian Diaspora Youth Leadership Summit, 2012).

INSTITUTIONALISATION OF DIASPORA IN GOVERNANCE

On 25th July 2007, President Umaru Musa Yar’adua opened the 2nd Nigerian Diaspora Day and 3rd Science and Technology conference with the theme “Connecting Nigeria with her Diaspora”. It laid emphasis on IT, Health, Education, Investment and Youth Engagement. President Olusegun Obasanjo had declared the July 25th every year since 2005 as the “Nigerian Diaspora Day” to recognise the Nigerian Diaspora as important stakeholders in the Nigerian project (National Planning Commission Engages Nigerians in the Diaspora for National Development,2009).

First celebrated in 2006 with the 2nd Science and Technology Conference, the Science and Technology was in collaboration with its initiator-the Nigerian Volunteer Service (NNVS), an organisation under the office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation and established by the Federal Executive Council to midwife a constructive engagement between Nigeria and her diaspora and the Ministry of Science and Technology. The Federal government initiative started in 2000 to engage in successful ventures earlier taken up by India, China, Malaysia, Ireland and others (ibid).

The institutionalisation of the annual Diaspora Day celebration in Abuja has provided a fora for encouraging Nigerians in the Diaspora for investment, infrastructural development and job creation. Between 25th and 27th July 2011, the Jonathan administration input a conference entitled “Nigeria’s Transformation Agenda – The Diaspora Perspective”. The government had created the new Ministry of Trade and Investment to harness investment opportunities and create enabling environment for investors to come into the country. This was referred to as the Diaspora Engagement Policy (ibid).

In 2009, Nigerians living in the United Kingdom and the United States had canvassed for greater involvement of Nigerians in the Diaspora (NIDO) in the 20:2020 process. To encourage the involvement of the Diaspora in the 2020 implementation phase, the NPS official delegate held town hall meeting in London between August. 20-21 and also in Washington August. 22-23. The Central Association of Nigerians in the UK (CANUK) challenged the Federal government on the need to be faithful to final blue print asking for emphasis for citizenry welfare, continuous reform of the civil service and monitoring and evaluation (MSE) (ibid).

Taking advantage of his presentation, the minister challenged NIDO to support the vision documents, initiatives emphasising implementation strategy and investment to support infrastructural development. This meeting was convened based on requests made by the US chapter of NIDO to the Business Support Group (BSG) of the NV 20:2020. (National Planning Commission Engages Nigerians in the Diaspora for National Development, 2009). A key outcome of the meeting was the need for the federal government to create unique roles for NIDO in the vision process through the launch of a Think Tank. Through this initiative, the NPC created a database of NIDO to serve as a reference point for experts abroad by Nigeria's development partners recruit (ibid).

DIASPORA MEDIA

With advances in communications technology, media for and by African diaspora have intensified work since 2000, such efforts in the UK to project black perspectives on civic issues and redress the marginalisation, alienation and negative stereotypes of black people in mainstream media have been appealing to first and second generation African Diaspora by showcasing the best of African entertainment (music and Nollywood films) such are Bright Entertainment Television, The African Channel, Klear TV, Voice of Africa Radio, African Voice etc. Such African voices should be patronised to establish them in rebuilding the continent and Nigeria as a country (Diasporas as Agents, 2013).

In the United Kingdom, African-Caribbean shops and street markets are full of Nigerian films. The Nigerian film video sector is considered Nigeria's fourth largest contribution to the economy after oil, telecommunications and banking. Fela Kuti (a Nigerian artist) musical based life works were aired in London. 2011 was recorded as one of the London's most commercially successful stage properties. Music and Art are the examples of cultural products from Nigeria with international impact and economic power. The ever-growing diaspora population is a good target audience to further enlarge the market for these products. US and UK entertainers and aristocracy 'brand' were exploited to partner in production of this show in the two countries to success (ibid). Ade Solanke (2013:unpaged) commented that:

A second (most important role is as partners in African creative ventures, sharing their western experience, contacts, skills and resources. Jay – 2 and Will Smith and Jada Pinkett, used their dollars and fame to help bring the hit stage show "Fela" to the US and British stage, to stunning success. This kind of collaboration between diasporan and African art and artists and entertainers should be built on. Having hip-hop aristocracy 'brand' the show helped sell it in the west.

Solanke further offered his diaspora experience of UK theatre and American film to influence to African theatre and film and selling it overseas. This he did through collaborations in performance, training of performers both from Africa and as African diaspora performers. Skill sharing between artists will further benefit the African creative economy. Solanke (2013) ran a course in Nigeria to train actors and producers. He is further interested in tapping into local talent and importing African artists as foreign talents. He further encouraged diasporans to contribute as artists as a branch of the African creative economy and as cultural producers with tales of African-heritage experience.

Today, members of the Nigerian diaspora contribute to Nigerian Newspapers as columnist and opinion writers. This represents a positive advantage of the internet. The opinion and perspectives brought to bear on national issues by the diaspora contributors are invaluable noted Solanke (ibid).

DIASPORA AND CULTURE

Hagher (2009) noted that Nigerians are hooked on Nigerian culture. They patronise Nigerian food, costumes, music, art and culture. They promote exhibition of arts, theatre performances and music concerts. This is public sphere diplomacy. Nigerian's dress in traditional attires in host country to the delight of foreigners and other Nigerians.

In the promotion of the Nigerian indigenous culture, Nigerian Diasporans wear cultural attires such as of tribes like the Hausa, Fulani, Igbo, Yoruba, Ijaw, Itshekiri etc. The *Babariga* (voluminous robes), *Kaftan*, *jabba*, *gambari*, *dandogo*, and *gbariye* are examples of Hausa, Fulani, Yoruba dresses. *Zanna bukar*, *muhadu hanki* and

abeti aja are examples of Hausa and Yoruba caps. It is essential to promote Nigerian textiles and clothing styles (Ayakoroma, 2013).

Nigerian indigenous cuisines have outstaged many foreign ones – such are mama cass, mama Calabar etc, located in New York, London and other European countries. *Tsere* (stick meat), roasted meat, *suya*, *kilishi*, *iru*, *ponmo*, *garri*, *dodo*, pounded yam, *fufu* and other indigenous foods are presented in international markets but need to be further re-packaged as more attractive and better nutritious.

Fura de nono (yoghurt and fresh milk) by Fulani pastoralist, *kunu* (millet juice), *zobo* (or *isapa*), *Emu funfun* or *mmanya ngwo* (palm wine), *abacha* (indigenous salad), *kokoro*, *dundu* etc.

Sometimes cultural festivals are hosted such as “*Valpo African fest: Wazobia Nigeria*” organised by the Valparaiso University in Indiana, USA (ibid). This was a special focus on Nigerian cultural heritage, as a prelude to the opening of an African Cultural Institute in the university, *Igbo day* is celebrated in the USA, the *Isaac Boro Day*, by the Deltans to promote the Nigerian identity. This is a channel of interface between Nigeria and the rest of the world. These are avenues to promote Nigerian food, dress and indigenous languages, especially to future generations of Diaspora Nigerians. Members of the Diaspora are a working provider of supporters whenever the national football team is playing an away match. They complement the efforts of the teams supporters’ club (ibid). The Nigerian Diaspora can further promote their ambassadorship through the use of Nigerian names for their children and the promotion of Nigerian languages as medium of communications in Diaspora.

ETHNIC DIASPORA’S CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT

For Nigeria, ethnicity is also reflected between groups in diaspora and stereotypical attitudes are presented at workplaces and elsewhere showing negative acceptance issues. Ogula (2009, unpagged) noted that “more often than not, Nigerians from different tribes in the same workplace show adversarial attitude towards one another. Some go as far as presenting damaging portrait of other ethnic groups to their American/British co-workers and friends”. Many Nigerians live and coalesce in the US along ethnic faultlines (ibid).

Nigerians in the US/UK Diaspora exist as a plethora of organizations formed by Nigerians, ranging from traditional affinity organizations, village, town or ethnic associations, to alumni, old boys and girls associations and a handful of professional associations (ibid). These affiliations promote their ethnic groups and as a body contribute to the development of their ethnic units and community, towns and villages. They sponsor village festivals, build and renovate palaces, give scholarships and book and other forms of assistance to institutions that are located within such targeted environments in Nigeria (this is corroborated by Alayetoro, His Royal Highness Oba Ajayi and Olori Mary Ajayi, the Eyesorun of Ise Ekiti, 2014).

This organisation/associations can further be used to advance technological knowhow, facilitate knowledge sharing and contribute more to industrial project and other developments in their homeland communities. (Ogula,2009, Also corroborated by The Eyesorun of Ise Ekiti, Olori Mary Ajayi – interview 2014).

CONSTITUTIONAL CONSULTATION

There was an event held at Chatham House (an independent policy focused and research international affairs organisation, based in the UK) on February. 27th 2013 titled “The Review of Nigeria’s 1999 constitution Diaspora consultation (Fatusin, Untitled, Undated, Accessed 9/8/13). Though criticised for the fact that the Diaspora Nigerians are disenfranchised, the Diaspora voting was earlier reviewed in February. 2006, as an item on the Agenda of the National Political Reform Conference (NPRC). At this conference, series of events were organised by several Diaspora organisations in the United Kingdom and USA, which campaigned for the right of every Nigerian to vote, irrespective of residence or abode. Seven years later, the idea was thrown out by the lower and upper house (ibid).

The consultation presented 43 key issues for review (subsumed) which subsumed section 77 (2) of the voting rights, and included reservation of certain percentage of elective offices for women, creation of additional states, immunity from prosecution, tenure of local government councillors and chairmen, provision for people with disability etc. The current ongoing constitutional conference did not invite diaspora participation (ibid).

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Nigerians in the Diaspora often mobilized medical teams to Nigeria where medical fares, drugs, and clothes worth millions of dollars are provided. Dr Yemisi Sokan, (2013), a diasporan based in Sorey, England, corroborated this in an interview session during her visit to Nigeria for a family social function. Responding to a question on verification purpose by researcher she answered:

Of course, I belongs to a medical professional association, and an old student association (my Alma mater). We visit Nigeria for health care and have donated

medical instruments to the University of Ibadan Teaching Hospital; we have also given scholarships to intelligent students of my Alma matter. (Sokan, 2013).

The Nigerian Muslim Forum, UK and Africa Healthcare Development Trust provided free healthcare services to some rural dwellers in Nigeria. In just two days, the joint effort of these two charities treated about 3,000 patients in Kibiya Local Government of Kano State, using a total of eleven doctors from UK and Nigeria (Yusha'u Jameel M.) ((Contributions from Diaspora Nigerians, 2013). Visiting Diaspora Doctors have involved in tristate cardiovascular surgery at the University of Ibadan, Babcock and Abuja, making important inputs into heart surgery operations in Nigeria. It is also suggested that they can do transfer of skills whenever they visit home to do yearly voluntary work in their localities to help the poor and the needy. They can also assist with their access to charities that provide healthcare equipments and drugs at a highly subsidized rate (or even free) (This is corroborated by Dr Yemisi Sokan, England, interview- 2013).

Nigerian Doctors in the Diaspora and other stakeholders converged in Abuja on September 5, 2012 to brainstorm on how to actualize the transformation agenda of Jonathan administration in the health sector and also to seek collaboration of the private sector to provide best healthcare delivery services in Nigeria (Health Minister Meets Nigerian Diaspora Medical Doctors, 2013). To underscore the importance of foreign health missions by Diaspora Doctors, the 55th National Council on health directed that standard guidelines for the conduct of medical and foreign missions be developed. This is to ensure proper data generation of the medical mission, proper assessment of equipment donation and certification of all drugs, medicines imported as well as the activities of health professionals from the Diaspora. This would improve trend, recognition and appreciation of the health professionals in Diaspora. A memorandum of understanding was signed (MOU) between Nigerian Doctors in Diaspora and Federal Government of Nigeria in 2012. (ibid)

In 2011, the Federal Government signed MOU with the Association of Nigerian Physicians in the America (ANPA) and the Medical Association of Nigerian Specialists Across Great Britain (MANSAG). Subsequently, members of the association have been involved in various activities in the development of the sector such as education and training of undergraduates and Post graduates, medical students amongst others. Also, Nigerian Nurses Charitable Association (NNCA) in the United Kingdom. Extended areas of interest was capacity building and exchange of ideas between Nigerian Doctors and those at the Diaspora. (Health Minister Prof. Christian Chukwu Has Called on Nigeria's Health Professionals, 2013).

Special areas of impact was in good conduct and behaviour. Dr John Nwofia, a consultant interventional psychiatrist and rehabilitation specialist, visit his home town, Aguleri in Anambra State, regularly on medical missions (ibid). Dr Jimi Coker, (JIMI) a consultant General surgeon and coloproctologist, was in Nigeria to conduct training for surgeons on how to use surgical staplers as a means of improving the quality of surgical operations in Nigeria. He visits up to four times a year on large scale medical missions and pays his bill most of the time. He performs free surgeries as part of a large medical mission. Jimi Coker is an example of a returnee diaspora, a medical professional who established Hygeia Nigeria to create a chain of medical health care solutions of international standard across Nigeria. It is funded by institutional and individual shareholders and started since 1984. Despite challenges, Coker believes the project is successful (Contributions from Diaspora Nigerians, 2013).

The Association of Nigerian Physicians in the USA regularly visit Nigeria to offer assistance to patients and doctors in Nigeria (The Nigerian Diaspora, 2013). Recently, a group of Nigerian doctors led by Dr. Nurudeen Olowopopo of Chicago embarked on a "medical mission of mercy." Under the auspices of the strong and vibrant Association of Nigerian Physicians in America and in collaboration with the Lagos State government. Dr. Ferdinand Ofofiele, a topmost black surgeon in the US also annually leads a medical team of surgeons on humanitarian missions to Nigeria and elsewhere across the globe (Contributions from Diaspora Nigerians, 2013).

PROFESSIONAL DIASPORAS

The Nigerian professionals in the diaspora have set up several information sharing internet groups and websites, where they exchange information mainly on Nigerian issues, experiences, job opportunities, and information. Governments current efforts in several areas of the national life of Nigerians are also heavily scrutinised, praised or criticised. (ibid)

The Vine Group (a professional association based in New York send books, computers, and scholarships to higher institutions in Nigeria). In 2012, the group sent 10 scholarship awards to the Polytechnic Ibadan, 20 to the Olabisi Onabanjo University in Ogun State, also 300,000 books, and fifty (50) computers to the Ibadan Polytechnic and are working hard to do more. Other Nigerian groups from US and Britain formed a website: nigeriavillagesquare.com. coordinated by the US based Nigerian Leadership Forum (NLF). They contributed

money relieve to victims of the bomb blast at the Ikeja cantonment. They also contribute to individual health issues reported via newspapers through another website: nigeriaeworld.com.

DIASPORA REBUTTAL

On May 20th and 21st 2006, the CNN premiered its feature programme, “How to rob a bank” and it profiled Nigeria in a negative portrayal, as criminals, NIDO President, Dr Ola Kasim immediately issued a rebuttal condemning CNN on behalf of NIDO. Similarly, the American Jewish Committee also condemned CNN. This synergy and support effectively helped as base for Nigerian Diaspora’s social and political agenda. (Hagher, 2009).

Hagher (2009) has reiterated that Diaspora Nigerians have often waged wars against homeland governments in the past. The causes of this he attributed to their impatience and frustrations with the slow pace of change (development) at home. He cited the military administration of General Sani Abacha as a case to mention. The Nigerian Diaspora acting under the umbrella name of Association of Nigerians Abroad, (ANA) waged a relentless war to restore democracy. It worked in partnership with NADECO to solicit isolation by the hegemonic powers and persuade Canada to sponsor Nigeria’s suspension from the Commonwealth.

The Diaspora’s affluence and influential attitude in host community intensify their ability to affect homeland politics by influencing the perception and attitude of their host nation. Criticisms of Diasporans on the internet are a veritable source of control if the diplomats, politicians and bureaucrats pay attention to them.

SOME INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

It is important to note that Nigerians in the Diaspora can fasttrack the nation’s development. Individuals in the diaspora (USA and UK) have contributed their quota to national development. Such include but are not limited to Mr Eribor Okogun 34, business consultant, who studied in Britain and held a job with Transport for London, the government body that runs London transport system, he returned in 2003 to work for the Transnational Corporation of Nigeria PLC. Francisca Chiedu, a Nigerian Masters student at the Robert Gordon University, United Kingdom became the Student Union President in 2012, Dr Wole Sobayejo, a Nigerian-American Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace engineer at Princeton is the President of the African University of Science and Technology in Abuja, such investments in Nigeria’s engineering talent are facilitating cutting edge innovation to benefit both Africa and the world(Contributions from Diaspora Nigerians, 2013).

In support of primary education in Nigeria, a couple Ifeanyi Ochei and wife Omolara, since 2008 have supported primary education in Ugboodu, a rural village in Delta State. They awarded scholarships to indigent pupils and provided educational resources for the primary school in the village. Such were teaching aids, reference books, notebooks, textbooks, and writing materials for the pupils. This has enabled the creation of a Resource Centre in the school, Ohe primary school, Ugboodu. This school was linked with a London primary school (Michael Faraday School) (Supporting Primary Education in Nigeria, Undated).

The story however is not all golden. Diaspora returnees are not always successfully reabsorbed sometimes this can be referred to as brain waste. Some Diaspora returnees were not able to gain employment nor were they able to start any form of business for self-sustenance. Such diaspora citizens usually return to migration destination after a period of frustration (Oral interview, Grace Owoeye, 2013).

Hagher (2009) identified challenges to Diaspora rapid response to national development. Such are security issues, health issues, bureaucracy (in transactions). Remittance hitches like failed banks, corruption, misuse by relations, challenges in host countries, anti-social Diaspora (i.e. biafra resorgimento, Niger Delta separatist self deterministic armed rebellion support, support for homosexuality, desperate refugee and assylum seekers with negative stories etc.

Negative Diaspora contributions include helping politicians in money laundering, and to buy choice property abroad, to get favour for fat contracts. There are also cases of political appointments that are unrelated to diaspora professions, 419 scam, harlottery and trafficking in money, illegal goods, drugs and human. This challenge notwithstanding, this research have been able to establish some facts, these are that diaspora Nigerians in the UK and US have interest in contributing to Nigerian’s development, that Nigerians in Diaspora keep contact and source information about their homeland. That Nigerians in the UK and US Diaspora have made several concerted efforts to assist the country in her development especially in the area of remittances and poverty alleviaton. That Nigerians in the UK and USA are still interested in further involvement in the country’s development agenda and, at levels of governance, have partnered with the Nigerian leaders and traditional institutions to assist in the country’s development.

(interview; Femi Adefolaju, SSA Diaspora, Ekiti State, 2011- 2014, in 2013, Ambassador Tunde Adeniran, 2014, HRN Alayetoro of Ayetoro Ekiti, 2013). Why then does the country continue to experience low ebb development? Why are diaspora contributions not visible to all? These points are to be verified in chapter seven through analysis of questionnaires.

OBSTACLES AND CHALLENGES OF DIASPORA'S CONTRIBUTIONS

Ventures Africa (undated) listed obstacles that discourage Diaspora Nigerians from returning home such as, bad political climate, full of corruption and lack of transparency, lack of informal structure, no stable power supply, no arable and well-distributed water system, no good road network. The returnee Diasporas are inhibited by lack of touch with the system. There is no good source of information and representation, like India and China.

The Nigerian government representation of Diaspora is considered redundant and the Diaspora groups are lousy with power struggle and the comfort of the Diaspora compared to Nigeria. Further, challenges to investment in homeland by diasporas include Bureaucratic bottleneck, lack of political consistency (noted by the vice president, Yemi Osinbajo, 2015), lack of trust, little or no infrastructural development, and lack of good representation, insecurity, corruption, piracy, violence, militias, bad governance and terrorism. All these have led some to conclude that Nigeria is a failing state.

In addition, respondents complained about the attitude of friends and relatives who believe Diasporas are money bags to be exploited (Engineer Ademola, 2014, Owoeye, 2015, Adikwu, 2014). Many noted how funds transferred home are embezzled or mismanaged by family members or friends and sometimes contractors. Ogunyemi (2013) recorded that the impact of remittances is mostly felt at a micro-economic level and can only be felt at macro levels when used for investment.

To Adams (2010), factors of inhibition to the success of Diaspora development interventions include poverty, lack of capital, god fatherism, political hurdles of opponents of development, and the Nigerian socio-cultural milieu (i.e. unwilling attitude of home based Nigerians due to envy, exploitation and greed) which the country can overcome through dedication and determination in collaboration.

On the side of the Diasporas, corrupt Diasporas assist Nigerian politicians and government officials launder stolen money leading to desiccation of Nigerian's image and duplicity. Most diasporas (Eng Adepoju, 2/6/14, Olowomehin 2/3/13, Gladys Umeh, 2/5/13) emphasize that official corruption is the most notable economic disaster of the nation. A correction of the social policy is a fundamental task that goes to the root of the prevailing unjust economic order. Segun Sango, General Secretary, Democratic Socialist Movement emphasized that it is an assignment that goes beyond the scope of periodic but highly expensive prosecution of few individuals which is the stock in trade of capitalist governments in the world over (Sango cited in Adams, 2010). He further noted that, Corruption and bad governance are the duo bane of Nigeria's socio-economic and political progress. The recommended solutions to the powers that be on how to combat these epileptic barriers attracts no concern or are at most minimized, because the government and its cronies are the same people that perpetrate and facilitate the atrocity that retards the growth of the Nation (Cited in Adams, 2010).

The Jimi Coker (a returnee medical professional) experience illustrates the little expertise and frustration in Diaspora development intervention. Challenges of personal and institutional cost, little professional ethics of Nigerian health care providers and Nigerian attitude to their health in addition to poverty and ignorance are noted to be the clog in the wheel of progress.

An interesting new dimension to challenges is the current trend in xenophobia (South Africa, the EU and the USA (in the wake of Donald Trump Campaign opinion) which provide cases of interest on migration receptivity. Importantly also is the negative aspect of globalization such as, shrinking territoriality and internet scam and terrorism. Challenges notwithstanding the Diaspora present a good avenue to assist the socio-political and economic development of the Nation.

HOW TO OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES

The essence of Research and scholarship is to provide solutions to observed problems. The harmonized recommendations of this research work therefore are:

A Facilitation of improved bilateral relations with Britain and America is essential. This is most important because it will provide the enabling environment for resident Diasporas to pay attention to homeland, as policies of the country of residence will be favourable. Exploring the Diaspora advantages needs concerted efforts. Nigeria should do everything to attract the Diaspora by promoting the ideological and institutional arrangement for improved relations e.g. establishing a special institute for research on Nigeria and Diaspora cooperation. There should be a creation support structures needed to encourage return migration e.g. "Visa for life".

There should be policy continuity by successive administrations e.g. good policies introduced by earlier governments such as the 2007 “Citizen Diplomacy” to address the prevalent incidents of alleged abuse and persecution of Nigerians in different parts of the world should be sustained. This is most important and necessary, to create good socio-political and economic environments such as: development of infrastructure, provision of good governance structures-positive public policies etc. This is to encourage Diaspora Nigerians to invest in industrial development. The 300billion Diaspora bond in 2016(cited on *The Diaspora*, NTA international, on Thursday 26th June, 2016) could be used for proper diversification of mining agriculture and infrastructural development. Israel started in the 1930s and within thirty years had a story of success. India, China and Pakistan are also reference points.

Potential importance of remittance flows as veritable instrument for national development is not adequately exploited. It is noted also that using such measures to finance housing development and as security by involved banks to raise international loans are not exploited. It is suggested that there is an urgent need to put in place appropriate policies and strategies for maximizing the benefits arising from remittances i.e switch from remittances to real investments especially in the development of infrastructure. Diasporas should be encouraged to emphasize culture and language to generations of their children to avoid what Soludo (2010) referred to as the bleaching syndrome – distancing oneself from the root by language, and names dropping. It is important that the Diaspora portend themselves as cultural ambassadors, not only in music, dressing and films, but also in the area of cultural transmission. Such are, in respect for the aged, upholding family values and promoting value for hard work.

The creation of an effective anti-graft legislation on corruption, enthroning good governance, probity, and transparency and the creation of the necessary environment for trust needed by diasporas to place their hard earned funds for assistance in development. Corrupt Diasporas who assist Nigerian politicians and government officials launder stolen money should be reprimanded and made to stop the image desiccation and duplicity. New

areas of investment in development include water conservation and recycling, food borne diseases, ecology of the Atlantic coast, drought, forecasting and management, sustainable agriculture. These new innovations are particularly important diaspora resource from the USA and the UK. There is need to use Diaspora innovation to leverage the British American Diaspora members to serve as mentors and experts. The Nigerian Diaspora can be used to develop stronger bonds with other nations through their civil societies, business leaders, religious communities, professionals, women and minorities.

Diasporas hold important positions in private sector wealth and asset management, mergers and acquisition, corporate finance, strategic management, fixed income, private banking, and venture capital, Wall Street etc. private businesses such as property development, real estate, and construction firms amongst others. Professionals listing areas can exploit advantages to benefit homeland. Relevant input in this field it is noted, will include: to harness access to cutting edge research that can translate to big time business, access to capital, personal wealth, international finance market – micro financing (gathering of funds by a few Diaspora Nigerians for specific business venture, international expansion of Nigeria business (marketing, production and financing), and establishment of joint businesses on both sides.

From the United States and United Kingdom, there is annual team visits to different parts of Nigeria such teams have visited Imo, Abia, Ondo, Ekiti, Osun states amongst others, attending to patients on probono basis. Areas of need include: establishment of a well-structured system of referrals between doctors at home and Diaspora doctors, establishment of telemedicine between both sides, assisting doctors at home to access new treatment procedures, facilitating exposure of doctors at home to the state of the art facilities abroad, joint organization of treatment of rare cases abroad where home doctors can be exposed to such procedures, Diaspora doctors volunteering time at hospitals, at home to perform procedures and teach health workers, assisting both government and private hospitals to source equipments that are functional to the stage of the nation’s development (this has happened in pocket of cases, but should be further encouraged). It could be hospital equipment’s that have been discarded and still functional which can be sent to hospitals for free.

CONCLUSION

The need to benefit from its Diasporas is an important compendium for Nigeria as in other developing countries. Some factors however constitute hindrances to the efforts of the Diaspora. These factors include but are not limited to corruption, lack of infrastructure, lack of good governance, challenges facing democratic sustenance, amongst others. In the face of such challenges, this paper provides recommendations such as facilitation of improved bilateral relations with Britain and America, effective partnership between the Diaspora and the country requires establishing a special institute for research on Nigeria and Diaspora cooperation, policy continuity by successive administrations. The creation of an effective anti-graft legislation on corruption, an enthroning of good governance, probity, and transparency and the creation of the necessary environment for trust needed by Diasporas to place their hard earned

funds for assistance in development. (This will be at family and governmental levels). The paper focused on the American and British Diaspora Nigerians.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Adefolaju, Oral interview, Ado Ekiti, 5/3/13
- [2]. Adetayo, O (2015), "No Diaspora Voting for Now, Says Buhari, Punch, Wednesday, August, 26. Adetayo, O. (2016), "I didn't know why I came to rule now" Saturday Punch, February 6, 2016, Vol. 7317 No. 1816, www.punchng.com.
- [3]. Adeniran, T. Oral interview at Orin Ekiti, 19/2/2014
- [4]. Adu, F.M (2016), Nigerians In The Diaspora And Homeland Development, a PhD Thesis Submitted to the Department of Political Science, Ekiti State University, Ado- Ekiti. Nigeria.
- [5]. African Diaspora Policy Centre (2011), "Migration and Development, Strategies for Mobilizing the Diaspora for Homeland Development: The Case Studies of Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal", Paper Prepared by African Diaspora Policy Centre, August 2011.
- [6]. Agbo, S. A. (undated), "Myths and Realities of Higher Education as a Vehicle for Nation Building in Developing Countries, The Culture of the University and the New African Diaspora", Retrieved, 10 November, 2013, <http://www.persons.org.uk/agbo1%20paper.pdf>
- [7]. Ajayi M, Olori Mary the Eyesorun of Ise Ekiti, interviewed on 13/5/14.
- [8]. Akanmu, A. (2010) "Brain Drain – Brain Gain: Leveraging the Nigerian Diaspora for the Revitalization of Nigeria Higher Education" paper presented at the 25th Conference of the Association of Vice Chancellors of Nigerian Universities, held at Osun State University, Osogbo, on April 19-22, 2010
- [9]. Akinmade, K. (2010), "Database to connect Nigerian diaspora with the homeland", http://www.tradeinvestnigeria.com/feature_articles/201141.htm retrieved 9/7/13.
- [10]. Akintunde, (2013), Our Reporter, May 1, 2013.
- [11]. All Africa.com, <http://allafrica.com/stories/201107251853.html>
- [12]. Amaza, M. (2013), "Not a Way to Fly", *Nigerians Talk*, <http://nigerianstalk.org/2012/09/26/not-a-way-to-fly-mark-amaza/> retrieved 20/6/13.
- [13]. Ameh, G, (2010), "2015: Jega Explains Why Nigerians in the Diaspora won't Vote", *Daily Post*, April 2, 2014, Retrieved 10 August, 2014, <http://dailypost.ng/2014/04/02/2015-jega-explains-nigerians-diaspora-wont-vote/>
- [14]. Ani, O. (2013), "Nigerians in Diaspora and National Development", *ThisDay Live* <http://www.thisdaylive.com/articles/diaspora-nigerians-and-national-development/154805/> Retrieved 18/6/13.
- [15]. APC: The New Vista and the Role of the Diaspora, An Address Delivered to the ANC-USA 2013 Convention in Chicago, United States. By Senator Lawal Shuaibu, National Secretary, Action Congress of Nigeria on Saturday 18th May. PDF Print. Accessed Sunday, 19th May 2013, 14:06
- [16]. <http://www.acnigeria.com/media-center/news-a-events/244-welcome-address-by-the-chairman-acn-national-convention-planning-committee-sen-lawal-shuaibu-in-lagos-april-18th-2013>
- [17]. [APC, UK To Jonathan: Stop Militarising Elections](#), PDP leaders are threats to democracy, *The Nation*, Monday, August 4, 2014.
- [18]. Asemota, A.S (SAN) (2013), "Saving Nigeria by Nigerians in the Diaspora, Change Agents and Ideas Seminar Series Powered by Arisenigeria and Edo Okpamakhin.
- [19]. Ayakoroma, B.F. (2013), "Diasporas as Agents in the Promotion of Nigeria's Cultural Diplomacy: A Food for Thought" paper by the Executive Secretary / CEO, National Institute for Cultural Orientation (NICO), Abuja FCT, Nigeria. <http://www.nico.gov.ng/index.php/features/101-diasporans-as-agents-in-the-promotion-of-nigeria-s-cultural-diplomacy>
- [20]. Bankole, O., "Western Moneygram hit Nigeria, Others with Charges", *Nigeria Communication Week*, 09 May, 2014, Retrieved 10 August, 2014, <http://nigeriacommunicationsweek.com.ng/e-financial/western-union-moneygram-hit-nigeria-others-with-charges>
- [21]. Cao, L. (2003), "The Diaspora of Ethnic Economies: Beyond the Pale?" *William and Law Review*, 44: 4, Retrieved 10 November, 2013, <http://scholarship.law.wm.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1390&context=wmlr>.
- [22]. Chikezie, C. E, (undated), "Reinforcing the contributions of African Diasporas to Development". Retrieved, 10 November, 2013, http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTDECPROSPECTS/Resources/476882-1157133580628/DfD_ch09.pdf

- [23]. Chukindi, J.(2014), “APGA Diaspora accuses Prince Arthur Eze of Working to subvert Peter Obi’s Ministerial Appointment”, *DailyPost*, April 12, 2014, Retrieved 30 June 2014, <http://dailypost.ng/2014/04/12/apga-diaspora-accuses-prince-arthur-eze-working-subvert-peter-obis-ministerial-appointment/>
- [24]. Chukwujekwu, E.O. (2013), “Urgent Need to Save our Youths from Self-Imposed Modern Slavery: The Western World is no more a bed of Roses” <http://nigeriaworld.com/articles/2013/may/120.html> Retrieved 9/7/13.
- [25]. Common Ground Initiative, Superiority African Development through UK-based Small and Diaspora Organisations. Institutionalisation of Diaspora Efforts is necessary for sustainable Development of South Asia, Ambassador Sopinath Pilai published date: Tuesday, Jan. 8 2013, <https://www.gov.uk/international.../common-ground-initiative-cgi> 18/6/13.
- [26]. Contributions of Nigerians in the Diaspora to National Development, Retrieved 9/7/13, <http://www.gamji.com/article6000/NEWS7909.htm> ..
- [27]. Contributions from Diaspora Nigerians for Government Database, *Nigerian Village Square*, <http://www.nigeriavillagesquare.com/articles/contributions-from-diaspora-nigerians-for-govt-database.html> , retrieved 9/7/13.
- [28]. Cuko, S. and Traore M. (undated), Diaspora Networks and Identity: Conflict Resolution in the Horn of Africa”, *The Interdisciplinary Journal of International Studies*, 5, Retrieved, 5 December, 2013, <http://ojs.aub.aau.dk/index.php/ijis/article/view/171/112> .
- [29]. Diaspora Giveback Program, Wednesday, 30th March 2011, 09:03:50pm, http://nnsdiaspora.com/news_info.php?news_id=21
- [30]. Diaspora London Conference: Buhari Declares INEC corrupt Judiciary Partial, <http://www.punchng.com/news/inec-leaders-corrupt-judiciary-partial-buhari/>
- [31]. Direct Foreign Investment, Nigerians in Diaspora bemoans insecurity, other bottlenecks, *Nigerian Tribune*, <http://www.tribune.com.ng/news2013/index.php/en/news/news-headlines/item/11752-direct-foreign-investment-diaspora-mission-bemoans-insecurity-other-bottlenecks.html> Retrieved 19/6/13.
- [32]. Eric G. (undated), Eric Guichard Homestrings.com “Exploring Private Contributions to Healthcare in Africa”, <http://www.africa-uk.org/sites/default/files/Dr%20Jimi%20Coker.pdf> 7/9/13.
- [33]. Experts canvas role for Diaspora in African quest for Development. Centre for Black and African Arts Civilization (CBAAC) in collaboration with Department of Music, University of Port Harcourt 2013 edition of the yearly Black History Month.
- [34]. Exploring Private Contributions to Healthcare in Africa, Eric Guichard, Homestrings.com, <http://www.africa-uk.org/sites/default/files/Dr%20Jimi%20Coker.pdf> retrieved 9/7/13.
- [35]. Ezejiofor, S.P. Udeh, H. (2011), “Nigerian Diaspora: Time to Return Home” New York City, June 25, <http://www.thenigerianvoice.com/news/79783/1/nigerians-in-diaspora-come-home-the-time-is-now.html>
- [36]. Fatusin, A. (2013), “Them and Us – A Diaspora Perspective.” Originally Published in the *Nigrian Guardian* of Sunday 21 April, 2013 http://www.nguardiannews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=119495%3Athem-and-us--a-diaspora-perspective-&catid=104%3Asunday-magazine&Itemid=567. But retrieved from <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!topic/usaafriacdialogue/oduj6Xm-FeA> 9/7/13.
- [37]. FG summons British High Commissioner over 3000 pounds Visa bond, <http://www.punchng.com/news/3000-visa-bond-fg-summons-british-high-commissioner/>
- [38]. FMBN targets 2.5 billion diaspora money for housing sector, <http://www.diasporacommittee.com/index.php/component/content/article/1-homepagenews/130-fmbn-targets-us25-billion-diaspora-money-for-housing-sector>
- [39]. Guichard, E. (undated), “Exploring Private Contributions to Healthcare in Africa, Retrieved 9/7/10, <http://www.africa-uk.org/sites/default/files/Dr%20Jimi%20Coker.pdf>
- [40]. Hagher, I.E. (2009), “Nigerians in the Diaspora: Their Role as Agents of Change and Development” Seminar paper presented at the Regional Seminar of Heads of Missions of Americas and Caribbean, Ottawa, September 4th - 6th, 2009, http://www.hagher.com/Nigerians_in_the_Diaspora.html 8/7/2013.
- [41]. Hasmik, C. (2007), “The Role of the Armenian Diaspora in Homeland Economic Development: Challenges and Opportunities. M.A. paper submitted to Central European University, Department of International Relations and European Studies, Budapest, Hungary.

- [42]. Health Minister meets Nigerian Diaspora Medical Doctors, <https://new.fmi.gov.ng/latest/health-minister-meets-nigerian-diaspora-medical-doctors/> Retrieved 18/6/13.
- [43]. Health Minister Prof. Christian Chukwu has called on Nigeria's Health Professionals (in the diaspora) to show more commitment and concern to the health of the nation. in All African.com. (<http://allafrica.com/stories/201107251853.html>)
- [44]. His Royal Highness, Alayetoro of Ayetoro-Ekiti 21/10/13
- [45]. HME seeks Partnership with Nigerians in Diaspora, 2 August, 2010, ISSN 0795-3089, Vol. 5, No. 31 , retrieved 8/7/13. <http://www.nuc.edu.ng/nucsite/File/Monday%20Bulletin/2%20August.%202010.pdf>
- [46]. Ifeanyi, U. (2012), "Managing Monetary Policy in Trying Times", *Premium Times*, <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/opinion/101963-managing-monetary-policy-in-trying-times-by-uddin-ifeanyi.html> retrieved 20/6/2013.
- [47]. Idoko, C. (2011), "FG woos Nigerians in diaspora on investment infrastructure, job creation, *Nigerian Tribune*, <http://www.tribune.com.ng/index.php/news/25514-fg-woos-nigerians-in-diaspora-on-investment-infrastructure-job-creation> Friday 22 July 2011, Retrieved 16/6/13
- [48]. Investors rush Nigeria's 1 billion dollar bond, <http://businessnews.com.ng/2013/07/05/investors-rush-nigerias-1b-bond/>
- [49]. Jonathan kicks off Diaspora Export programme, www.nigeria.gov.ng/.../547-jonathan-kicks-off-diaspora-export-program
- [50]. Lampert, B. (2009), "Diaspora and Development: Nigerians Organisations in London and Transnational Politics of Belonging" – *Global Network*, 9 (2) pp. 162-184. <http://oro.open.ac.uk/19727/>
- [51]. Leonard, K.S. (2013), "An Open letter to Nigerians in the Diaspora", <http://pointblanknews.com/pbn/articles-opinions/an-open-letter-to-nigerians-in-the-diaspora/> posted February 16 2013; 22-33, culled 7/7/13.
- [52]. Mberu, U.B. (undated), "Nigeria: Multiple Form of Mobility in Africa's Demographic Giant", African Population and Health Research Centre, Poland, Pongou, Brown University. <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/nigeria-multiple-forms-mobility-africas-demographic-giant> 9/7/13.
- [53]. Nanja, K. (2009), African Diaspora Organizations and Homeland Development: The Case of Somali and Ghanian Associations in Denmark. Paper presented at the DHS seminar: Agents of Change? African Diaspora Organisations and Homeland Development, April 3, 2009, Danish Institute for International Studies, http://www.diis.dk/files/media/publications/import/extra/nkl_african_diaspora_organizations_2.pdf
- [54]. News Agency of Nigeria, "Nigerians in Diaspora wants Voting Rights", *News24*, Retrieved 30 June, 2014, <http://m.news24.com/nigeria/Politics/News/Nigerians-in-diaspora-want-voting-rights-20140410>
- [55]. *Nigeria News Desk*, (2012), Rep. Abike Dabiri Erewa has applauded the achievements of two Nigerians who were recently recognised by the government of the United States Friday Sept. 14 8:35, 2012.
- [56]. Nigerians in Diaspora Invest in Education, in Share Social Buttons plug. <http://www.vanguardngr.com/2013/07/fg-urges-nigerians-in-diaspora-to-invest-in-centenary-city/> 19/6/13
- [57]. Nigerians in Diaspora May Vote in 2011 Polls, Change Nigeria Project. http://changenigeriaproject.org/index.php?option=com_content&...
- [58]. "Nigerians in the Diaspora: Their Role as Agents of Change and Development", Seminar paper presented at the Regional Seminar of Heads of Missions of Americas and Caribbean, Ottawa, Sept. 4th – 6th 2009.
- [59]. Nigeria in US protest abduction of Chibok School girls, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/nigeria/11160578/Protesters-mark-six-months-since-Nigerian-schoolgirls-kidnap-by-Boko-Haram.html>
- [60]. Nigeria Plans US Diaspora Database: Nigerian Diaspora Database in the Rescue", Emeka Umejei Reporter Lagos. http://independentngonline.com/life/lead/article_02/
- [61]. Nigeria should target Diaspora investors, *The Nation*, <http://thenationonlineng.net/new/nigeria-should-target-diaspora-investors/> posted May 1, 2013, retrieved 9/7/13.
- [62]. Nigeria to Issue Diaspora Bond in 2012. in *Business News* staff on November 3, 2011.
- [63]. Nigeria: UK Groups oppose Suspension of Bill on Diaspora voting ... *Daily Trust*, Feb. 24th, 2013 <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/NigerianWorldForum/conversations/topics/155509> culled 9/7/13.
- [64]. Nigeria's Development Requires a New Social Compact with its Citizens. – US, www.vanguardngr.com/.../boko-haram-hinders-nigerias-development-us...

- [65]. “No more rigging in Elections – Jonathan tells Nigerians in Washington”, *Today Internet Newspaper*, August 4, 2014, Retrieved, 10 August, 2014, <http://www.today.ng/news/no-more-rigging-in-elections-jonathan-tells-nigerians-in-washington/> NTA, Network News, (9pm) October 1, 2014.
- [66]. Nwabufo, F., “Nigeria’s critics in diaspora: A pretentious horde”, *News24*, Retrieved, 30 June, 2014, <http://m.news24.com/nigeria/MyNews24/Nigerias-critics-in-diaspora-A-pretentious-horde-20140407>
- [67]. Nwaneri, F. Oct. 30, 2012, “2015 will Diaspora Nigerians Vote?”, Retrieved, March 11, 2014, <http://www.elombah.com/index.php/articles-mainmenu/20456-2015-voting-for-nigerians-in-diaspora>
- [68]. Obasanjo, O. (1979), “Foundation for Stability” Transport, Television interviews (Jan 16 – 18) published by Information Division, Federal Ministry of Information, Lagos printed by Citadel Printing and Publishing Company, 15, Abeokuta Street, Ikeja, Lagos (Extracted from OAU meeting in Kwartoun, Sudan-Speaking on Foreign Intervention in Africa.
- [69]. Ogbebulu, B. (2004) “The Contribution of Diaspora (UK) To Poverty Reduction, Development in Nigeria and Agitation for Voting Rights”, Article by a Nigerian Diaspora in London Retrieved 7/9/2013. <https://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/fileadmin/files/Publications/Reports/DFID%20diaspora%20report.pdf>
- [70]. Ogugbuaja, C. “Nigerians in the US protest Chibok School Girls abduction”, *Donald Payne Jr.*, Retrieved, 13 October, 2013, <http://www.paynejr4congress.com/news-clips/nigerians-us-protest-against-chibok-schoolgirls-abduction>
- [71]. Ogula, D. (2009), “Nigerians in the Diaspora: A Microcosm of National Fragmentation and Chaos”, *Nigeria World*, <http://nigeriaworld.com/articles/2009/nov/283.html> December 9, 2009, retrieved 16/6/13.
- [72]. Ogunyemi, O.(2013), “Diaspora Media: Africa’s Missing Link with Its Diaspora”, <http://africanarguments.org/2013/02/04/diaspora-media-africa%E2%80%99s-missing-link-with-its-diaspora-%E2%80%93-by-dr-ola-ogunyemi/> 18/6/13.
- [73]. Ojo, M. (2010), “On Diaspora, our Development,” An address delivered by H.E. Ojo Maduekwe, CFR Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs at the UK-Nigerian Diaspora Event, London 20th January 2010.
- [74]. Oke, O. Medical Doctor, Resident in Ado-Ekiti, interviewed on 4/8/2013.
- [75]. Okene, A.A. (2010), “The Role of Nigerians in Diaspora in the Development of Nigeria: A Pragmatic Approach”, being a lecture presented at the Nigerian Independence Golden Jubilee celebration and Award Ceremony of NISCOM, International Islamic University, Malaysia (NUM), held on the 11th Dhul-Hajj 1431H (18thNov.2010CE), https://www.academia.edu/534321/The_role_of_Nigerians_in_diaspora_in_developing_Nigeria 18/6/13.
- [76]. Oladele, K. (2009), “Nigerian Diaspora and Development”, *Village Square*, Retrieved 9/7/2013, <http://nigeriavillagesquare.com/forum/articles-comments/50525-nigerian-diaspora-development-kayode-oladele.html>
- [77]. Olawole, Adeyeye resident in Ado-Ekiti, interviewed on 5/9/2013, (returnee diaspora resident in Lagos).
- [78]. Olowokere, T.O. “Repositioning the Nigerian Identity in the Diaspora”, <http://dailypost.ng/2013/08/15/titus-o-olowokere-repositioning-the-nigerian-identity-in-the-diaspora/>.
- [79]. Ondo 2016: Indigenes in Diaspora Endorse Boroffice for Governor, <https://t.co/m12ctz823v/s/TXcy> via @todayng <https://t.co/LM1EJUd2Cl/s/RioF>
- [80]. Onyearu, A. (2012), “The Nigerian Diaspora- Strengthening the Model”, Retrieved 9/7/2013 <http://www.gamji.com/article8000/NEWS8692.htm>
- [81]. Onwutolobi, A.C. (2009), “Rebranding Nigeria, Role of the Nigerians in Diaspora. Paper presented at the occasion of Nigerian Independence day organized by People’s Democratic Party Finland chapter on the 4th Oct. 2009.
- [82]. Oparaoji, E. Chairman Eastern Mandate Union (EMU), “Elevating Diaspora Purpose”, *Sahara Reporters*, January 31, 211 <http://saharareporters.com/2011/01/31/elevating-diaspora-purpose> 10/5/13.
- [83]. Owoeye, Dayo civil servant, interviewed on 6/3/2014, (returnee diaspora resident in Ado).
- [84]. *Premium Times*, <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/141743-fg-to-reach-out-to-more-nigerians-in-diaspora-for-national-development-jonathan.html>.
- [85]. President Goodluck Jonathan says he is determined to reach out to Nigerians living abroad and engage them for the development of Nigeria Undated, Uncited, Retrieved, 18-06-13.
- [86]. President Yar’Adua opens 2nd Nigerians in Diaspora Forum on Science and Technology, Document placed July 24, 2007, 18:47 culled 18/6/13. Paper prepared by the Media Department of the office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation.

- [87]. Raman, S, "Development Interventions need to be more Responsive to Citizens' Priorities in the Global South", Blog Post, *Making Science Public*, Retrieved 30 June, 2014, <http://blogs.nottingham.ac.uk/makingsciencepublic/2014/04/03/development-interventions-need-to-be-more-responsive-to-citizens-priorities-in-the-global-south/>
- [88]. Remittances, Competition and Fair Financial Access, Opportunities in Nigeria" USAID Report.
- [89]. "Report of a Conference on Engaging Zimbabweans in the Diaspora towards Economic Reconstruction", Facilitated by The Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR), Held at Le Franschhoek Hotel, Franschhoek, Cape Town, South Africa. 3-4 December 2009, Retrieved, 10 November, 2013, http://archive.kubatana.net/docs/migr/ijr_report_engaging_diaspora_zim_100324.pdf
- [90]. Report on the National summit "Volunteers of Nigeria: Towards National Development", International Year of Volunteers; 10th Anniversary 2011, prepared by Galina Chas and Adesola Adefemi, United National Volunteers Nigeria, 2011.
- [91]. Representatives laud Diaspora Huge Remittance to Nigeria, Feb. 5, 2013, retrieved 9/7/13, <http://abikedabiri.com/index.php/news/28-diaspora-remittances-to-africa-hits-60-billion>
- [92]. Showcasing Initiatives by Nigerians in Diaspora, 2013. Webpage undisclosed. [Internet Source, accessed 9/7/13.](#)
- [93]. Shuaibu, Lawal, Senator "Welcome Address by the Chairman ACN National Convention Planning Committee Sen Lawal Shuaibu, in Lagos, April 18th, 2013", <http://www.acnigeria.com/media-center/news-a-events/244-welcome-address-by-the-chairman-acn-national-convention-planning-committee-sen-lawal-shuaibu-in-lagos-april-18th-2013> Retrieved 9/7/13.
- [94]. Shilgba, L. K, (2013) "An Open Letter to Nigerians in the Diaspora", *Sahara Reporters*, February 16, 2013, Rerieved, 10 November, 2013, <http://saharareporters.com/2013/02/16/open-letter-nigerians-diaspora-leonard-karshima-shilgba>.
- [95]. Speaker Bankole unveils Software for Global Database of Nigerians in Diaspora, *Global Database for Nigerians in Diaspora*, <http://www.nigeriandiaspora.org/endorsements.aspx> Retrieved 18/6/13.
- [96]. Sokan, Y. Visiting Diasporan, Oral interview at Ayetoro Ekiti, 5/4/2013
- [97]. Solanke, A. (2011), "Sporastories", Paper presented at Arterial Network conference, December, Nairobi.
- [98]. Soludo, C. (2013), "Is Nigeria Losing Her 17 Million Diasporas? The Soludo Solution", *ThisDay Live*, 4th Feb. 2013 retrieved 8/7/13, <http://www.thisdaylive.com/articles/is-nigeria-losing-her-17-million-diaspora-138311/>
- [99]. Tambuwal Aminu has said that Nigerians in Diaspora can be pivotal to governments effort to raise the socio-economic development of the country. Tues. Feb. 5: 00:46, 2013. Nigeria Newsdesk.com
- [100]. "Terrorism: House Diaspora Committee Chairman urges Nigeria to seek Foreign Help", *Leadership*, April 23, 2014, Retrieved, August 10, 2014, <http://leadership.ng/news/367892/terrorism-house-diaspora-committee-chairman-urges-nigeria-seek-foreign-help>
- [101]. The All Nigerian Nationals in Diaspora has expressed big desire to double its yearly 10 billion dollar remittance to the country in the coming years. Thurs Nov. 8 8:28, 2012, Nigeria News desk.
- [102]. The Global Diaspora Forum, the State Department Document. USAID Report, 2011. Retrieved, 11 October, 2011, <http://www.state.gov/s/partnerships/gdf/>
- [103]. The Nation, May 22, 2013.
- [104]. The National Planning Commission Engages Nigerians in the Diaspora for National Vision2020(NU2020, <http://www.nationalplanning.gov.ng/images/docs/NationalPlans/nigeria-vision-20-20-20.pdf> September 2009, retrieved 18/6/13.
- [105]. The Nigerians Conversation Peace and Unity Forum organised by The Commonwealth Youth Forum of Nigeria, <http://diasporacommittee.com/index.php/media-center/news-and-events/103-maku-tasks-nigerians-in-diaspora-on-partnership-for-national-development>8/7/13, Minister of Information, Mr Labaran Maku Tasks Nigerians in Diaspora on Partnership for National Development at a London Fora.
- [106]. The Nigerian Diaspora", undated, unnamed writer, <http://www.nigeriandiaspora.com/> retrieved 8/7/13.
- [107]. The Students' Association of Nigerians Abroad, <http://sand-uk.org/ourprojects/ndy/s2012> .
- [108]. Uonyekwere, M. (2011), "Improve Infrastructure to Attract more Diaspora? Or Vice versa? Posted 11.17pm on July 26, 2011. <http://www.kyslife.com> retrieved
- [109]. UK based Nigerian Group Rally Support for President Jonathan's War Against Terror, <http://www.informationng.com/2013/06/u-k-based-nigerian-groups-rally-support-for-president-jonathans-war-against-terror.html>

- [110]. UK Visa bond: We will defend the interest of Nigerians: Foreign Affairs Minister, <http://nationalmirroronline.net/new/uk-bond-for-visas-fg-promises-to-defend-nigerians-interest/>
- [111]. “US-Africa Summit: Meeting opens to Rally, Protesters denounce African Leaders as “Torturers” and “Killers”, *Today Internet Newspaper*, August 4, 2014, Retrieved 10 August, 2014, <http://www.today.ng/news/u-s-africa-summit-meeting-opens-to-rally-protesters-denounce-african-leaders-as-torturers-and-killers/>
- [112]. US Senate approves Immigration bill: Citizenship chance for Illegal Immigrants, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/28/us-usa-immigration-senate-idUSBRE95Q10X20130628>
- [113]. Vertovec, S. Cohen, R. (eds) (1999), *Migration, Diasporas, and Transnationalism*, Cheltenham UK. Edward Elgar.
- [114]. Werbner, P. (2002), “The Place which is Diaspora: Citizenship, Religion and Gender in the Making of Chordic Transnationalism”, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, Vol. 28, pp. 1-18.
- [115]. Why I do not support Diaspora voting in Nigeria, David Mark, <https://www.facebook.com/LegisReports/posts/697715583578294>
- [116]. Williams, F. Editor, “Reconnect Africa Harnessing Human Capital: The African Diaspora”, <http://www.reconnectafrica.com/economic-and.../africa-the-good-news-4.html> 19/6/13.
- [117]. Yorubas in the UK to build community centre, <http://www.punchng.com/news/yce-to-build-yoruba-village-in-london/> .
- [118]. Yushau, U. Jameel, M. article; “Nigerians in Diaspora and Health Care Intervention” <http://jameelyushau.blogspot.com/2012/08/20nigerians-in-diaspora-and-healthcare.html> 18/6/13, *Premium Times*. Yushau’U, a former staff of the BBC, teaches Journalism at the University of Northumbria at New Castle, England.
- [119]. Zunzer, W. (2004), “Diaspora Communities and Civil Conflict Transformation” Berghof occasional paper. No. 26 Berlin: The Berghof Research Center for Constructive Conflict Management.