

Local Government and Public Policy Performance in Nigeria: An Examination of National Policy on Rural Development in Selected Local Governments of Oyo State, Nigeria

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**Being a PhD Thesis Presented to the Department of Politics and International Relations,
Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria**

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Award of Doctor of Philosophy Degree
(PhD) in Public Administration**

2022

Certification

This is to certify that, Ademola A. Aderogba, with Matriculation Number LCU/PG/000940, carried out this research work, entitled “Local Government and Public Policy Performance: An Examination of National Policy on Rural Development in Selected Local Governments of Oyo State, Nigeria”, in the Department of Politics and International Relations, Faculty of Management and Social Sciences, Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo state, for the award of Doctor of Philosophy degree (PhD) in Public Administration, and that this has not been previously submitted.

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Dedication

This research work is dedicated to God Almighty for His mercies in making this thesis a success.

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Acknowledgement

I am grateful to the management of Lead City University, Ibadan for granting me the opportunity to write this thesis. Also, I am greatly indebted to the following for their assistance in generating both primary and secondary data: Oyo State Local Government Service Commission, Oyo State Universal Basic Education Board, Oyo State Primary Healthcare Board, Oyo State Agricultural Input and Supply Agency, Oyo State Rural Electrification Board, and Oyo State Rural Water and Sanitation Agency.

I am equally grateful to the department of Politics and International Relations, Lead City University, Ibadan, for making this research work easier, through the various assistance and guidance, most especially my Supervisor; Associate Professor O.A. Oseni, the Head of Department; Associate Professor Akeem Amodu, the mentor and father to all; Professor Alaba Ogunsanwo, Associate Professor Roland Badru, the PG Coordinator; Dr. Mrs. Modupe Albert, Dr. Mrs. Adebola Alade, Dr. Akande, Mr. Akinyemi, Mrs Olayemi, Dr. Emmajimo, who did compliance check on this work, and other staff of the department that are not mentioned.

Lastly, I am greatly indebted to the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) and the Management of Lagos State University of Science and Technology, Ikorodu, for their sponsorship. I also appreciate the encouragement and support of my family; My wife, Mrs. M.A. Aderogba, my children, Opeyemi, Adedotun, Adekunle and Adeyinka.

However, I need to clarify that although; the above institutions and individuals assisted in the process of this research work, I alone stand responsible for the errors that may be found in the work.

Abstract

The main constraint to government's effectiveness and efficiency in Nigeria as posited by analysts is the issue of structure. Therefore, this study focuses on how Nigeria can be re-structured for effective and efficient service delivery. The discourse favours developmental strategies directed at the grassroots and rural development, with local government as a major player. Thus, the study examines the national public policies/programmes performance on rural development as a development indicator. In the process, the study examines the role of public policy in governance, the status of local government within the federal structure, the effectiveness of local government as local development institutions, its level of involvement in selected national public policies and programmes on rural development, and the challenges facing local governments' effective service delivery in Nigeria. In essence, using the decentralization conceptual framework, the study contributes towards agenda-setting for Nigeria restructuring and to the process of adopting new rural development strategies. The research method employs triangulation of the theory, data collection and analysis, while design of the study is case study. The population of the study is local governments in Oyo State. The sample is the senior staff in five relevant departments, using Multi-Sampling Technique. The instrument for primary data collection is questionnaire, while the supervisory agencies for the programmes provide the secondary data. The findings show that the Nigerian federal structure and the national public policies on rural development are centralized and state-centered. In addition, local government due to the structural deficiency are ineffective, hence national public policies/programmes on rural development underperform. Therefore, the study concludes that Nigeria needs a more devolved local government and a new policy framework to achieve development at the rural level. However, the study recommends a strong local government institution and decentralized national public policy processes for effective policy performance.

Keywords: Decentralization, Local Government, Public Policy, Policy Performance, Rural Development

Word Count: 297

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List of Acronyms

Abbreviation	Meaning
LGs	Local Governments
UBE	Universal Basic Educations
WASH	Water and Sanitation Hygiene
MCHCP	Maternal and Child Health Care Programme
CDAs	Community Development Associations
FADAMA	Hausa name for irrigable low land
UN	United Nations
DIFRI	Directorate of Food, Road and Rural Infrastructure
OFN	Operation Feed the Nation
PHC	Primary Health Care
LCDAs	Local Council Development Areas
FUG	Fadama User Group
FUAs	Fadama Users Associations
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SFCO	State Fadama Coordination Office
SFDC	State Fadama Development Committee

PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
GUYS	Graduate Unemployed Youths and Women Support
ICT	Information Communication Technology
PIU	Project Implementation Unit

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