Nigeria's Foreign Policy under President Muhammadu Buhari Administration (2015-2023)

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Degree in International Relations

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Certification

This is to certify that Oladayo James OLALERE with matriculation number LCU/PG/003814 carried out his research work titled "Nigeria's Foreign Policy under President Muhammed Buhari Administration (2015-2023)" in the Department of Politics and International Relations, Faculty of Management and Social Sciences, Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo State, for the Award of Master of Science (MSc) degree in International Relations, and that this has not been previously submitted.

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Dedication

This thesis is dedicated to God Almighty.

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Acknowledgment

I acknowledge the support received from Lead City University, Ibadan, for the opportunity to conduct this research. I appreciate the University library's resources and materials, both soft and hard, that I utilized. I also express my gratitude to Lead City Postgraduate College and its staff, led by Prof. Folakemi Oredein, the Provost.

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Even though the above-mentioned institutions and persons have assisted in the process of this research work, I alone stand responsible for the errors, if any, found in the work.

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Abstract

The administration of President Muhammadu Buhari (2015-2023) ushered in a transformative era for Nigeria's foreign policy, aiming to elevate the nation to a position of regional leadership and a prominent player on the global stage, while navigating a myriad of domestic obstacles. With an expansive network of over 100 foreign missions, ranging from bustling embassies to consulates, Nigeria's diplomatic approach underscored a commitment to deepening international relationships, cultivating economic partnerships, safeguarding the welfare of its citizens, and launching robust security initiatives. Yet, this ambition was often tempered by the stark realities of underfunding and bureaucratic bottlenecks. The contours of Buhari's foreign policy were significantly shaped by a backdrop of internal turmoil, such as the relentless Boko Haram insurgency and a biting economic recession. These challenges prompted a focused effort on regional security, economic diversification, and robust anti-corruption measures. In contrast to previous administrations that placed heavy emphasis on Afrocentric leadership, Buhari's strategy took a more inward-looking approach, emphasizing Nigeria's unique context and challenges. Strategic diplomatic missions in key locations such as Washington, D.C., Beijing, and Addis Ababa became vital conduits for advancing Nigeria's interests on the world stage. These missions played a pivotal role in fostering collaborative security efforts to combat terrorism in the Lake Chad Basin, as exemplified by initiatives such as the Multinational Joint Task Force. Here, diplomacy served as both shield and sword in the nation's quest for stability. Economic diplomacy emerged as a focal point, with missions tirelessly working to attract foreign investment, as evidenced by significant Chinese inflows and high-profile trade summits held in the heart of London. Moreover, these diplomatic outposts adeptly navigated the turbulent waters of regional relations, particularly following the controversial border closure with ECOWAS neighbors, reflecting Nigeria's intense commitment to regional collaboration, even in trying times.

Keywords: Diplomacy, Foreign Policy, Foreign Missions, Nigeria.

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