



**Policy Somersault: Implications for the Nigerian Economy.**

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**Abstract**

*This paper examined the implications of policy somersault in developing Nigerian economy. The paper anchored its analytical model on Political bargaining/Government politics process, as postulated by Allison (1957). Policy somersault which is a synonym of policy failure is replete in modern political and economic literature and has been analyzed by researchers to be a function of certain intervening variables or determinants which in this paper varied as interest, values, demands for policy output, over ambitious goals, political environment and inadequate knowledge of policy issues etc. The analysis of the issues revealed that policy somersault has a corresponding bearing to economic growth and development of nations including Nigeria. Hence this study established that the rate of policy failure in Nigeria has a direct bearing with the level of our economic development. The study therefore recommended among others, that public policies should adopt people's values and be structured within the reach of ordinary citizens; and that the citizens must be careful not to demand more than government can afford within its limited resources per period.*

**Key words :** Policy, Somersault, Implications, Nigerian, Economy

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## **1. Introduction**

The Nigerian nation, its government and people have overtime grappled with the challenge of achieving socio-economic and political development thus the adoption and enactment of various policies and socio-economic programmes since independence. Historically, the decades of 1950s, 1980s and even 1990s according to extant literature of economic development in Nigeria, constituted various phases of Nigeria's attempts at achieving development and diversification in her economy.

Indeed, from independence to date, successive governments in Nigeria have embarked on several policy programmes aimed at meeting the various political and economic needs of her people. However, various policies formulated and implemented overtime in Nigeria have had their difficulties in achieving the needed success of repositioning the nation both economically and politically, arising from the approach/methodology of implementation.

It is on record (Ogbagu, 2000) that over the last three and a half decades Nigeria has tried her hands on many policy programmes without much success. Understandably, policies are not made in vacuum but within a situation structured not only by facts but also by norms and values of the people in a given environment. However, in Nigeria, to a large extent, norms and values attract little or no respect. One can therefore appreciate the fact of policy somersault in Nigeria, given our attitude to value and actions to public service delivery.

It is very important to understand the policy (problem) before embarking on the process of implementation. Understanding the issues involved like the norms and values of the people where a particular government project is to be sited, environmental factors like topography, economic and political situation can adversely affect effective implementation of any government programme. In Nigeria, therefore, one can appreciate this problem of policy somersault to be characterized by various variables which in turn have slammed on the growth and development of the nation's economy over the years. The thrust of this paper is therefore to examination the reasons behind policy failure in Nigeria bearing in mind the importance of policy to national and economic development.

In recent times, current public policies have failed to grow our economy, neither have they contributed in any way to national development. This paper attempted to examine claims by the erstwhile Jonathan administration, that our economy was growing, yet such indices of economic growth like increase per capita of Nigerian is still less than one dollar per day, unemployment has been on the increase in more

than four decades now, balance of trade has been on annual decrease as well as foreign exchange, as there is no form of industrialization for economic growth.

## **2. What is Policy Somersault?**

Policy somersault does not present itself to any ambiguity but rather connotes the inability of an organization or body (government) to achieve its predetermined policy goals or objectives, arising from certain policy defaults. Put differently, policy somersault in the context of this paper, especially within the sphere of government, can be perceived as the failure of government to achieve its desired intention in a given programme or planned project because of some policy logistics (Okpata, 2008). Policy somersault in another clime is synonymous with policy failure, which results when an organization especially government or its agency is unable to realize its stated objectives or goals in the pursuit of her various programmes during implementation. Therefore in the context of this paper, policy somersault and failure shall be used interchangeably for purposes of clarity.

## **3. Issues in Policy Somersault in Nigeria**

Scholars and even the political class have debated the issues concerned with policy somersault or failure over time and such debates are replete in both political, economic and public policy literature. While some of these exercises are on issues that aid successful policies, others are why policies fail. Indeed, there are obvious similarities between the two. However, the argument about policy failure and success highlights the importance of the factors militating against successful policy implementation as they impact on the economic and political development of Nigeria.

Implementation problem in public policy occurs when the implementing agency or institution of government is unable to successfully complete the programmes of government according to the design of the policy. Implementation problem therefore occurs as a result of lack of political will, financial problem, corruption and many other issues. Such problem, indeed, is not restricted only to the developing nations. Wherever and whenever the basic critical factors that are very crucial to policy implementation are missing, there is bound to be implementation problem whether in developing or developed nation (Makinde, 2005).

Honadle (1979), in an attempt to identify the problem associated with policy implementation, equated policy with a building plan, and asserted that:

*Implementation is the nemesis of designers, it conjures the images of plans gone away and of social carpenters and masons who fail to build to specifications and thereby distort the beautiful blue prints for progress which were handed to them. It provokes memories of 'good' ideas that did not work and places the blame on the second and second class members of the policy team.*

The success or failure of any policy has been attributed to certain determinants both at formulation and implementation stages. There is, therefore, no doubt that public policies are themselves determined by multifarious variables which according to Ikelegbe (1994) include: political variables like interest group leaders and environmental variable. However, the level of consensus among the stakeholders in public policy formulation, support and acceptance of a policy by critical segments are vital to policy success or failure (Egonmwam, 2001).

Ingram and Mann (1980) identified seven main determinants of policy success or failure and they are:

- i. Excessive demand for policy output.
- ii. Over ambition and unrealizable policy goals
- iii. Accurate and inaccurate theory of causation of social problems
- iv. Type and effectiveness of policy instruments chosen;
- v. Time
- vi. Failure of political institutions and
- vii. Top-down instead of bottom-up approach

Egonmwam (2001), also discussed these determinants. It is believed that even though these factors influence the success or failure of public policies, they are not in themselves exhaustive determinants of policy failure or otherwise.

Ikelegbe (1994), in his own approach, categorized policy failure into four factors to include: political, socio-economic, bureaucratic and environmental variables. Ogbuagu (1995) rather summarized policy failure into three variables:

- a. Political instability and inconsistency in policy efforts.
- b. Misdirection of policy target as index for policy evolution and
- c. Inadequate infrastructural development on both urban and rural areas.

In spite of the various opinions on policy future by scholars, and analysts, an attempt to examine the causes of policy somersault or failure in Nigeria in this paper, adopted eclectic analytical model of the views so expressed. However, the paper

aligned its analysis to the views of Ikegbe (1994) and Egomnwam (2001) who made modest contribution to the discourse. The discussion on the variables in this paper, supports the views of Egomnwam (2001) as cited in Ingram and Mann (1980):

1. **Excessive Demand for Policy Output:** Modern governments are often invoked with pressure and demands from various interest groups and that like elsewhere in the industrialized nations, citizens of third world countries are not only often impatient with their governments in their demands and pressures for the provision of social services, they are also concerned with the quality of services rendered. Government is therefore confronted with the challenges of appropriate use of resources and capabilities. Common sense knowledge makes it clear that when tasks set for the government are so difficult to achieve, there is every the likelihood that there will be high rate of policy failure, no matter how densely packed the policy space may appear. Hence, the over expectation of governmental system to provide everything often results in disappointment in most developing countries. In addition, public programmes requiring heavy chunk of money may not be properly executed since the fund and perhaps the willingness on the part of government may not be there but because of public pressure, government can afford to offer shoddy job on such public-tasking programme.
2. **Over Ambitious and Unrealizable Policy Goal:** For Egomnwam (2001), highly ambitious policies are usually more likely not to achieve the set objectives, as highly set goals are more difficult to achieve with modest pretensions. He cited an example of an over-ambitious Acrostat balloon project in Nigeria, which was abandoned in 1982 after gulping millions of Naira. A similar case was the Universal Primary Education (UPE) programme which was declared in Nigeria in 1976. So many of such abandoned projects litter our state capitals today. A classical example is the Government Primary School Ikot Akpan I who's UPE projects were abandoned abruptly. Olokun (2012) observed "Nigeria brims over abandoned projects, aborts hopes and dries up dreams; and that the incapacity of the state to deliver minimal benefits to stakeholders constricts the space for individuals and corporate fulfilment, reproducing in its wake, a nation that is the graveyard of noble dreams and uplifting projects". Abraham Bunu (2012), a one-time Minister in the Federal Capital Territory, followed suit when he stated that, 'there are at least 11,886 projects in varying stages of abandonment or dereliction dotting the national landscape of Nigeria'. For example, where are

the gains of Federation of European Agriculture Producers (FEAP), People's Bank or Bank of Agriculture etc which were in vogue in the late 1990's and even the most recent national Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), Subsidy Re-investment Programme(Sure – P), etc.

3. **Inaccurate Theory of Causation of Social Problems:** According to Egonmwam (2001) because of over-stretched and overburdened bureaucracy of excessive demands, emphasis has always shifted from causes of failure to analysis of the defense of the failure. Hence, bureaucracy is concerned with defending the matters of the moment and management crises rather than looking for the solution to the issue at stake. He maintained that in a hurry to respond to too many policy issues at a time, analysis of accurate causes of social problems are hardly carried out and, whereas the causes of social problems are not correctly and accurately identified, and as long as policies are based on wrong causation, policy failure rate are bound to stand a higher risk in our nation. The erstwhile National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) is here, cited as an example of an institution or government agency in her habit of defending itself against widely criticized inefficiency and ineffectiveness in power. Ogbuagu (2004) precisely submitted that the ambivalence and inconsistency which often feature in Nigeria's policy efforts in part arise from the political instability and uncertainty which characterized the environment of our political independence in 1960.
4. **The Political Environment:** This includes such political context as party competition, control of government, interest groups, activities and structures of government, as well as political instability and unstable socio-economic environment, government relationship with labour and other professional bodies/associations, etc. Under socio-economic environment, the variables include, citizen's per capita income, level of wealth, standard of living, level of unemployment and even educational attainment. These factors have far reaching influence in the environment of policy process for success or otherwise. The above economic indicators, are very important in determining the success of public policy or otherwise. Furthermore, certain physical environments may constrain the ability of government to perform or provide services as in desert and mountainous regions (Egonmwam, 2001). This is also true of socio-economic and political instability like periods of war, social unrest and youth restiveness e.g. Niger Delta region of Nigeria in their periods of aggression and

as such no government programme succeeded in the region then because of socio-economic and political unrest and currently the Boko Haram insurgency in the North Eastern of the country.

5. **Political Variable:** In addition, the over-politicization of public policies and programmes by either the political class or interests groups, causes policy failure. For example in 1992, Abakaliki in the then Enugu State was chosen to be located the College of Health Sciences of ESUT but because of over-politicization, the College never succeeded in graduating any qualified medical doctor until 2000, when Ebonyi State Government inherited the College as EBSU Medical College. Also, Ogbuagu (2004) posited that “the politicization of the indigenization policy of 1972, created problem for the success of the country’s indigenization process.

Another aspect of the political variable is the political role of the legislative arm of government. The legislature’s influence in the process of passing bills into laws again, accounts for the failure or otherwise of a given government policy, either in its formulation or implementation stage. The failure or otherwise of any policy therefore, is directly the disposition of the legislators, especially when such policies are executive bills. The legislators represent the people, they control and even have the oversight function on the executive arm, as well as control on appropriation bills of the executive arm of the government.

Besides the fact that policy formulation and implementation is a political process, one is often tempted to ask how policies are made within the cycle of Nigerian leadership, what is the process through which these policies are made, how rigorous are they and how subjected to scientific procedures have they been? The reasons for these questions are not far fetched, because one sees certain outputs or an abandonment that gives one the concern to imagine what must have informed it in the first instance.

While one does not doubt the competence of some of our Technocrats and Bureaucrats within the leadership, however, it is only by their fruits that one knows them. In a situation where political and economic analysts are no more in the picture, to analyze and/or advise our leadership on the implications or possible outcomes of certain fire brigade policies and, programmes put in place for the people, goal achievement to cost-benefit analysis becomes a farce and at worst abandonment of such project has always been occasioned at last. Olukun (2012), observed partly that the problem stems from the standpoint of the fact that “most of

these programmes were imported from outside Nigeria, a pattern which fits easily into prevalent consumerist culture, reeking with cheap imports usually of unverified quality with no attempt made whatsoever to recast them in the Nigerian context”.

Other scholars have identified other reasons for policy somersault or failure to include amongst others:

- i. Inadequate understanding of the issues to be addressed.
- ii. Lack of clear ownership and well focused leadership.
- iii. Failure to define appropriate measure of success.
- iv. Inadequate analysis of changes in the external environment.
- v. Lack of realism about how the policy will work in practice.
- vi. Failure to secure buy-in from those affected and those responsible for service delivery.
- vii. Failure to secure or develop the capacity and capability for successful delivery.
- viii. Failure to identify and manage risks and plan for unforeseen events.
- ix. Failure to establish an effective framework for monitoring and evaluating performance.
- x. Poor management of the policy making process itself. (Lasswell H., 1970, Anderson J., 2006, Eminue, 2009, Ikelegbe,2006).

#### **4. Theoretical Framework**

This paper is theoretically anchored on Political Bargaining/ Government Politics Model, postulated by Allison (1957) . This theory, attempts to explain government public policy making and implementation process. For this model, policy making in the public sector is characterized by conflict, compromise and interest involving actors. In government, policy making involves actors and they include the political class, individuals, groups or organizations with vested interests, values and influence which each of them projects (Ikelegbe, 1984). Policy making for government in this model is considered a game as the players consist of the political class, the bureaucrats, and interest and group leaders. Each player, therefore, invests his or her resources and influences in such a way as to advance self/group interest. It is important to stress that policy fails because of lack of acceptability by the generality of the benefiting populace. Hence for policy to succeed it must have general acceptability and must also accommodate a wider range of interest. In the event of general acceptance, issues like vandalism and destruction



of government projects will be minimized if not eliminated. When it accommodates several interests and is based on consensus and compromise, one can talk of policy success. This, therefore, makes public policy a concept of compromise, consensus or disagreement and if, therefore, not on the former, a given public policy is bound to experience somersault or failure. It is, therefore, very important to examine the influence, value, perception, interest and motivation of actors within a given policy framework, for these by extension are the psychological determinants of policy failure or success.

### **Relationship Between Policies, Economic Growth and Economic Development in Nigeria.**

Policies whether economic, political or socio-cultural, have implications for economic growth and development of nations. In fact, any policy that does not improve on the economic and political life of any nation is not worth implementing. Usoro (1983) alluded to this and observed that:

*In spite of social, political and economic constraints inherent in the formulation of policy programmes and national plan, newly independent Nigeria, recognizes the need for one, as an ideal way of setting out the nation's development objective and to demonstrate initiative in tackling the country's economic problem.*

Therefore in order to tackle the challenge of economic growth in Nigeria and to realize its objective, Nigerian nation, in 1959, set up the first National Economic Council in which membership were drawn from the various regions of the country and were charged with the responsibility of achieving and maintenance of the highest possible rate of increase in the standard of living and the creation of the necessary conditions that would usher in economic growth, including public support and awareness both in the potentials that exist and all the necessary sacrifices that will be required (Anyanwu, Oyefusi and Mogbolu, 1997). On the economic scene of Nigeria, taking an appraisal look at it, the oil boom of 1973-1974, objected not only the investment, production and consumption patterns of the country but also its socio-cultural values, political aspirations, style of economic management and policies and even programme implementation (Olaniyan, 1996). The discovery of oil in commercial quantity coupled with the oil embargo on the USA in 1973, affected the agricultural sector adversely. The economy became heavily dependent on oil. By this time, oil revenue represented almost 90 percent of foreign exchange earnings

and about 85 percent of total exports. While the boom afforded the government much needed revenue, it also created serious structural problems in the economy such as rural urban migration increased as people attempted to reap from the windfall of oil.

The global economic crisis of 1980 deteriorated the economy of Nigeria leading to the introduction of many economic policies to redirect the economy. The Nigerian government in response to the deteriorating economic condition, introduced some stabilization and economic policies like austerity measures and counter trade measures like Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) between 1982 and 1984. Furthermore, economic stabilization Act was enacted in 1982, which imposed stringent exchange control measures and import restrictions supported by appropriate monetary and fiscal policies. Such monetary and fiscal policies included the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), Serum Free Expansion Medium (SFEM), Personal Central Purchase (PCP), etc.

The Nigerian economy appeared to have performed better in terms of sectoral and overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rates during the SAP period (1986-1988) attributable to positive developments in agriculture and other financial sector policies. For instance, the highest GDP came from Agriculture with 40% annual average and followed by mining and quarrying which was 13.3% (Anyanwu et.al, 1997). Gross National Saving (GNS) also increased from annual average of 6.1% before SAP to 18% of GDP in 1986 while institutional saving increased from 6.0% to 20.9% of GDP for some periods. See tables below for more guidance.

**Table 1:** Percentage Distribution of GDP by Sectors (At 1986-93, Prices).

<b>S/NO</b>	<b>SECTOR</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>YEARLY AVERAGE</b>
1.	Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fishing	42.7	41.5	38.8	37.9	40.0
2.	Mining and Quarrying	14.1	12.7	13.7	13.1	13.3
3.	Manufacturing and Crafts	8.0	8.7	8.4	7.9	8.2
4.	Utilities (Electricity, Water)	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5
5.	Building and Construction	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9
6.	Transport and Communication	4.3	3.9	3.4	2.2	3.2
7.	Distribution	13.0	13.8	12.7	12.6	13.1
8.	Producers of Government Services	7.1	7.9	8.4	10.2	8.5
9.	Finance and Insurance	4.0	4.8	8.7	8.9	6.8

10.	Real Estate and Business Services	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
11.	Hotel and Restaurant	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6
12.	Housing (Dwelling)	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.5
13.	Community, Special and Personal Services	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8
	Total GDP	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Sources:** FOS, *National Accounts of Nigeria – 1991*, See also Yesufu (1996).

The implication of the table presented above is that the Structural Adjustment Programme led to the increase in production of goods and service within the agricultural, livestock, forestry and fishing sub-sectors resulting is a yearly average of 40.0% between 1986 to1993. Another sector that contributed greatly to the development of Nigerian economy was the mining and quarrying sector achieving a total sum of 13.3% yearly average within the same time frame as the case of agriculture. Manufacturing and craft also witnessed a remarkable contribution to the Gross Domestic Product of Nigeria leading to an improvement in the Nigerian economy. Has it is still today, the electricity and water (utilities) performed poorly in terms of contribution to the GDP of the country. We can therefore conclude that the utilities policies and programmes of the Government are not effective and properly implemented. The building and construction sector contributed 1.8%, 2.0%, 1.9%, 1.9% making a total of 1.9% average between 1986 and 1993. The GDP contribution of the transportation and communication sector stood at 3.2% for the four years examined. Distribution 13.1%, production of government services 8.5%, finance and insurance 6.8%, real estate and business services 0.3%, hotel and restaurant 0.6, housing (dwelling) 2.5 and community, special and personal services 0.8%. We can categorically conclude therefore that agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishing sectors contributed greatly to the GDP of Nigeria probably because of the sound and effective policies formulated and implemented by the sector. In the same vein real estate and utilities (electricity and water) sectors were the worst performing sectors within this period.

Unarguably, good policies, are synonymous with economic growth and development only if they are implemented with sincerity of purpose, devoid of fraudulent and corrupt practices hence, the policy measures put in place in the 1980s to 1990s paid off. For instance, the SAP economic policies with its attendant restrictions, yielded easier access to foreign exchange at market rates, restructuring production and consumption to discourage imports, promotion of agricultural

exports, reversal of rural-urban migration etc. Although, these gains were not without certain attendant pains of endemic inflation and shortage of foreign exchange and sharp increase in unemployment, etc.

This again informed Obadan and Ekuarhare's (1999) observation, that:

*The fiscal-monetary exchange policy contained in SAP was inconsistent with economic recovery and that recovery from the cyclic down-turn characterized by below-capacity national production, would require an increase in government expenditure to provide greater employment and increase social security benefits.*

Micro or macro-economic policies in Nigeria, impact on both the polity and the economy. For instance, some of the major economic problems faced by the Nigerian nation at the end of 1993, which formed the background to the design of the 1994 economic policies, which objectives included to look at the high and rising inflation rate, high rate of interest in money market, persistent depreciation of the naira exchange rate, deteriorating balance of payment, high unemployment and unsatisfactory economic growth in the production sector and generally improve confidence in the Nigerian socio-economic environment.

Annually from 1993 – 1997, different economic policies like raising the minimum paid-up capital requirements, liquidating insolvent banks, improving loan recovery and imposing sanctions for financial malpractice. All these were meant for different objectives as drivers to economic growth and development, hence policies are meant to drive and direct economic growth. However, policy somersault brings waterloo not only to the economy but also to the politics and the socio-cultural values of the people because economy as a substructure is the primary of all other superstructures according to the political economy of Karl Marx.

Fundamentally therefore, policy somersault in any system whether political, economic or socio-cultural, arises from imprecise and faulty goal specification, irrational corporate structure, inadequate funding, undue government interference with pseudo management procedures, bad management and fraud (Chigbo, 1997). Often time, certain government regimes in power, whether military or civilian, lack core structural value and task to pursue. Sometimes, there is also lack of goal setting, goal articulation and aggregation required in policy formulation and implementation because of the nature of the regime in power. This again contributes

to policy somersault. Evidence abound e.g. National Poverty Eradication Programme, Structural Adjustment Programme, Operation Feed the Nation, Green Revolution and the most recent one Subsidy Re-investment Programme. All these are programmes of government that have either died as a result of corruption or lack of political will especially when there is transition of power. In Akwa Ibom State for instance, Ibom Science Park is a clear example of abandonment of government policy and programme.

As Nigerians, we all know the true position in these sectors of Nigerian economy in relation to public policy. Speaking on the topic: Giving Nigerians Real Sector for Employment and Economic Development..., the then CBN Governor, Lamibo Sanusi, Lamented that:

*There was no value chain in the nation's economy as the Nigerian economy produces crude oil but imports petroleum products: pointing out that it was not all about monetary policies but the nation's economic and trade policies must be looked into. The Nigerian economy had been "growing" at seven percent rate annually for the last decade and would double in the next 10 years and queried this growth, how viable is the economy and how can this growth be translated into development. He stated that the breakdown of value chain was the bane of the nation's economy because if Nigeria's economy with all the dysfunction is growing at seven percent what would have been the situation if the country produces all the things that are being currently imported which could be produced locally in the country (Olukunton, 2012).*

Further to such deceit of the government is the fallacy that Nigerian economy is impressively growing without measurable economic indicators. For instance,

*The growth rate of Nigerian economy, as measured by the Real Gross Domestic Products (GDP) in the last five years has been impressive, so sounds their innuendos. According to the figure released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NNBS), the GDP growth rate stood at 7.4% as at end December, 2011. In the last eleven (11) months, the GDP growth rate in Nigeria averaged 7.28% making the Nigerian economy amongst the fastest growing economy in the world despite the infrastructural*

*challenges in the country. The growth was driven principally by the non-oil sector of the economy, whose growth rate stood at 8.80% as at December, 2011. The local content initiative of the FGH and passage of the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) will create tremendous opportunities and investments in the oil sector, particularly in the upstream and midstream sectors. Although the PIB is currently being delayed at the National Assembly, we are optimistic that the Bill will be passed before the general elections in 2015” (FSDH Research, 2013).*

These are the political gimmicks by the political class in connivance with the employed economists and statisticians to deceive Nigerians when the matter is very clear that our economy has not moved from subsistence level because of fraud, corruption and selfishness of our leadership.

Following therefore, from the above premised analysis, it must be understood that policy formulation and implementation involve a range of actions, interests and environments and takes place within many political frameworks and thus, enter the public domain through avenues such as government statements, newspapers editorials non governmental briefs and academic articles, with varieties of vested interests hence resulting to the issue of policy failure or somersault (Allan, 2010).

We must not lose sight of the fact that policy process is a political process and its actions are replete with partisanship and as such policies have the debate of being termed successful or unsuccessful by others. Intuitively therefore, we know that the ideal of complete success is rarely met thus, some shortcoming or failures permeate virtually all policies hence the concept of policy somersault in our literature (Fischer, 2003).

## **5. Conclusion and Recommendations**

This Paper has tried to highlight conceptually, the subject matter of the study, discussed the issues and variables that determine policy somersault and the relationship between policy and economic growth in Nigeria. The paper has been able to establish that there is a serious implication or link between effective policy formulation and implementation and economic development in any nation especially in Nigeria. We have therefore observed that policies are duly and procedurally formulated, involving all the interested parties and if provided with the necessary resources, institutional framework and enabling environment, together with

knowledgeable and skillful manpower and the right methodology, policies are bound to be drivers of economic growth and development.

Again, that if policies enjoy the involvement of the target audience at the level of agenda setting and resource aggregation, there shall be no reason for policy somersault. Furthermore, that amongst the factors that lead to policy somersault or failure, we noted that the issue of government avoiding the candid expert involvement of policy analysts be it political, economic or socio-cultural, orchestrates policy somersault.

This paper has also established that some of the policies so far enacted and implemented, have not grown Nigeria economy and it is therefore a fallacy to insinuate that there has been impressive growth in Nigerian economy, as has been speculated on our national dailies by the so called managers of our economy. The paper established this finding by the fact that the Nigerian economy as presently constituted lacks the indices of economic growth or development. Fundamentally, our economy wouldn't have grown in the midst of the decay and rot in our public education system. Since our government has not appreciated the need for intellectual capacity building, and in a country that has no regard for intellectual property development but is rather committed to cheap political propaganda and gains, such a nation cannot be said to have any economic development.

In conclusion, it is our position in this paper that whether micro, macro or fiscal policies, they must reflect the need of the people and any economic policies must be couched at the horizon of the ordinary man hence, job creation and industrialization must be seen to be the prime mover/driver of economic growth and development in Nigeria.

The following recommendations were made:

- i. Governance in a democratic system like, must be all inclusive because no single individual has all it takes to development a nation, let alone Nigeria with a population of over 160 million people.
- ii. Public policies whether political, economic or socio-cultural, must adopt people's value and be structured within the reach of the ordinary citizens.
- iii. Policy formulation and implementation should always follow a known pattern or model of implementation and must not only be scientific but also human, devoid of fraudulent operators. Therefore, participatory approach involving the target audience must always be adopted.

- iv. The public or the citizens must be careful not to demand more than a government can afford within her limited resources as the government should also learn to prioritize her programmes and projects.
- v. Government should also be sincere, sensitive and informative to the people so that accountability and probity should characterize her programmes.
- vi. Both the Government and private individuals should endeavour to create jobs and establish industries to grow the economy. Finally Government should develop the political will power to fund public education for capacity building and intellectual property development among Nigerian youth.

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