Executive Summary

Main issue: Nigeria’s development efforts have over the years been characterized by lack of continuity, consistency and commitment (3Cs).

This research paper is focused on understanding the primary aims of Development Plans in Nigeria, and more crucially whether they worked across the targeted sectors. The research finds that a lack of external budgetary commitment from colonial masters and persisting non-commitment after independence to development led to a lack of effectiveness in plans.

Why Plans Fail

- Lack of external budgetary commitment
- Incomplete feasibility studies and evaluation of projects
- Lack of objectives, colonial mindset
- Officials entrusted have no meaningful executive authority
- Little to no consultation of the general public
- Lack of good governance
- High level of corruption and indiscipline
- Poor budgetary allocation

Methodology

1. Literature Review – Gathered literature on the history of global development planning and its success in colonial states
2. Source collection - Identified data from primary sources revealing information on Nigeria’s expenditure and revenue on regional and national development schemes
3. Explanation – How the failure of development plans have contributed to the economic shortcomings of Nigeria

Early Development Plans

1st PLAN – 1945-1952
Framed by colonial administrators
Colonial government undertook no serious comprehensive planning

2nd PLAN – 1955-60-62
Framed by colonial administrators
Series of projects which had not been coordinated or related to any overall economic target

3rd PLAN – 1962-68
Post independence
More structured in encouraging the assemblage of agricultural produce for export purpose

Changing Development Thinking

1950s Modernization theories – countries should follow European model
1960s Modernization theories
1970s Dependency theories
Women and development
1990s neoliberalism
Grassroots approaches – local knowledge and participation
2000s neoliberalism – focus on the market, rolling back the state
Sustainable development

Early Development Plans

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Literary references: