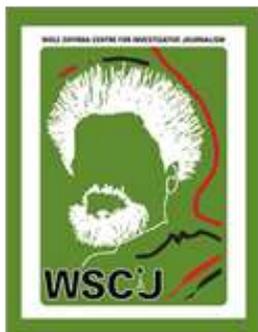
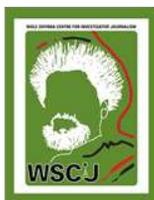


INVESTIGATION REPORT ON COMPARATIVE
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PERFORMANCE
BETWEEN NIGERIA AND OTHER AFRICAN
COUNTRIES.



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Abstract

This investigative report presents a comparative analysis of the economic and political performance of Nigeria and other selected countries in Africa. The aim is to evaluate how far the country has fared economically and politically when compared with other countries in Africa. Most significantly, the report would identify lessons that can be learned from the selected countries, so that best economic and political policies can be adopted to herald a better sectorial outlook for the country. The report is of the view that performance itself is not a static word. It suggests progress and growth and most times it is used to measure how great and developed a nation's institution or organization is. The study found that there is a great interconnectedness between political stability and economic development. Given the above in view, the study concludes that a stable political environment is an indispensable element for economic growth and therefore, the government of Nigeria should as a matter of necessity, identify the root causes of unstable political and economic environment and try to mitigate its effects so as to ensure sustained growth in Nigeria.

Key words: Investigative Report, Comparative Analysis; Political Performance; Women Representation, Economic Performance; Africa; Development

1.0. INTRODUCTION

The political economy of a country is pivotal to its economic dynamics as well as its social system. While politics and the process of politicking do not necessarily give rise to the social structure of a people, the institutional framework, process and outcome of this exercise do influence the course and outcome of achievable socio-economic status of the nation and its people. Besides, the primary expectation of electorates is to reap the benefits of democracy through their improved standard of living and sustainable socio-economic prosperity, which comes from positive economic steps ushered in by policies initiated by political institutions. Although these obligations are always seen as the benchmark for every political leadership (including in Nigeria), the practical reality of events has never been encouraging. To this end, failure to deliver on these measurable indicators places the country on a poor performance index. As the most populous country on the African continent, it is expected that the checklist of development in terms of economy and politics meet global standards and should suffice to compete with other nations on other continents.

2.0. SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

According to Punch (2022) Nigeria kept its abysmal performance and continued to be at the bottom of the annual Global Infrastructure Table produced by the World Economic Forum annually. In the 2021/2022 table, Nigeria was in the 123rd position out of 186 countries surveyed¹.

¹ Olufemi O, Issue-based Politics and Economic Development in Nigeria (15 Sep 2022). Available from <https://punchng.com/issue-based-politics-and-economic-development-in-nigeria/>. Accessed 18th November, 2022

The annual inflation rate in the country accelerated for the 10th straight month to 21.3 percent in October 2022 from 20.77 percent in September and 20.5 percent in August 2022. This led the World Bank to recently list Nigeria among the top 10 countries in the world with the worst inflation rates. The health facilities and medical professionals' remunerations are poor in Nigeria. Between June 10, 2021, and September 30, 2022, the General Medical Council in the United Kingdom licensed over 1,000 Nigerian-trained medical doctors to practice in the UK. The states of roads, both intra-state and inter-state, are nothing to write home about. Food prices are increasing every day as an average Nigerian cannot feed on three-square-meal a day despite the country's vast arable land².

The poverty level of the people is high and the standard of living is poor. In its latest "2022 Poverty and Prosperity Report," the World Bank stated that many extremely poor people in the world are in Nigeria followed by the Republic of Congo. Extreme poverty is described by World Bank as those living on less than \$1.90 a day. In a country where the minimum wage is about \$20.00 per month, it is definite that a lot of people will be living on \$0.66 per day³. The climatic change and weather variability have made flooding an incessant calamity of late in Nigeria! The housing situation is terrible with the average Nigerian not living in an adequate house. There are more slums and squalid settlements than decent communities. Waste management is terrible and transportation is a disaster.

In terms of political performance, Statistica reports that the democracy index in Nigeria stood at 4.11 points in 2021. In the report, Nigeria was classified as a nation of hybrid democracy. However, with a score of 4.11 points, Nigeria was very close to being defined as an authoritarian regime (four points or less). According to the source, the index is based on the electoral process and pluralism, government functions,

² Ibid

³ Ibid

political participation, and culture as well as civil liberties. Nigeria received very low scores in government functioning, political participation, and political culture⁴.

Nevertheless, the report indicated that democracy in Nigeria has improved over the past two decades, particularly between 2014 and 2015, when the index increased by almost one percentage point⁵.

3.0. CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS

A concept is an idea or principle that is connected to something.⁶ It is a relationship between a word (symbol) and an idea or conception⁷. Concepts enable us to impose some sort of meaning on the world and through concepts reality is given sense, order and coherence⁸. A framework on the other hand is a research tool intended to assist a researcher to develop awareness and understanding of the situation under scrutiny and to communicate this⁹. A conceptual framework is therefore defined as a network, or “plane,” of linked concepts that together provide a comprehensive understanding of a phenomenon¹⁰. The conceptual framework tends to explain the overall structure for carrying out this research work which is an innovation birthed from consorted efforts that focuses on comparative analysis of the political and economic performance of Nigeria and that of selected African Countries.

It is important to note that politics and economy are topics or concepts that are glued to each other and therefore, inseparable. This is because the decisions made by the

⁴ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1204750/democracy-index-in-sub-saharan-africa-by-country/>

⁵ Ibid

⁶Turnbull, J. Ed.” Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary of Current English” (New 8th Ed.) (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010). p.245

⁷Cohen, L. et al., “Research methods” in education (5th ed) (London, RoutledgeFalme, 2000.)

⁸Leshem, S. & Trafford, V. “Overlooking the conceptual framework”. Innovations in Education and Teaching International, 44(1), 93–105, 2007.doi: 10.1080/14703290601081

⁹Smyth R., “Exploring the usefulness of a conceptual framework as a research tool: A researcher's reflections”. Issues in Educational Research, (2006.) Available from <<http://www.iier.org.au/iier14/smytml>>. accessed 19th November, 2022

¹⁰Jabareen, Y. “Building a conceptual framework: philosophy, definitions, and procedure”. International Journal of Qualitative Method, (2009)8(4), 49-62,. Available from <<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>> accessed 19th November, 2022

political class have a greater influence on the economy of a nation and of course, the high performance of an economy is usually seen as a direct reflection of political policies and the success of the government in power. In this regard, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is a strong indicator of the strength of the economy, employment demography speaks also of the healthiness of the economy; this usually includes decent work, gender, and social inclusion, and of course, national elections can influence the growth of the country for years to come.

Having laid the above background, it is expedient that the concepts of economic and political performance be given a contextual definition for the overall interest of understanding this investigative report..

3.1. ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

Economic performance measurement is possible by evaluating how well the economy is growing. Economic growth relates to an increase in the productive potential of an economy. It is both an increase in the potential level of output that the economy can produce and an increase in the income of the citizens of a country¹¹.

Economic indicators include measures of macroeconomic performance (gross domestic product [GDP], consumption, investment, and international trade) and stability (central government budgets, prices, the money supply, and the balance of payments). It also includes broader measures of income and savings adjusted for pollution, depreciation, and depletion of resources. Many economic indicators from WDI are used in tracking progress toward SDG Goal 8, promoting decent work and economic growth, and Goal 12, which encourages sustainable consumption and production¹².

¹¹ <https://datatopics.worldbank.org/world-development-indicators/themes/economy.html>

¹² Ibid

Economic growth/performance and political stability or performance are deeply interconnected. On the one hand, the uncertainty associated with an unstable political environment may reduce investment and the pace of economic development. On the other hand, poor economic performance may lead to government collapse and political unrest. However, political stability can be achieved through oppression or through having a political party in place that does not have to compete to be re-elected. In these cases, political stability is a double-edged sword. While the peaceful environment that political stability may offer is a desideratum, it could easily become a breeding ground for economic activities that will lead to greater performance¹³.

3.2. POLITICAL PERFORMANCE

Defining political performance is not a desirable task for this report. What is rather the concern of the report is the measurement of political performance. The question is therefore, what are the indicators for political performance? It is interesting to note that literature abounds on the measurement of political performance. Just a very few are examine in this report based on their relevancy. Lane and Ersson¹⁴ have investigated political performance. In Lane and Ersson¹⁵ institutional variation and performance were examined and a number of output and outcome indicators were included as dependent variables. They applied five output indicators, central government revenue, general government consumption, central governments deficits, social security benefit expenditure,s and military spending¹⁶. They applied 12 outcome indicators and examples of the outcome indicators include inflation rates, human development index, income distribution, level of democracy, female representation in politics, political protest and violence, and level of corruption. Also in Lane and

¹³ <https://blogs.worldbank.org/endpovertyinsouthasia/can-political-stability-hurt-economic-growth>

¹⁴ Lane, Jan-Erik and Svante Ersson. (2000.) *The New Institutional Politics: Performance and outcomes*. London and New York, Routledge.

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ Ibid at 56

Ersson it was investigated if there were institutional effects on performance, and indicators such as GDP/capita, human development index, social security payments, central government revenue, Gini index, and female representation in parliaments were included as performance indicators¹⁷.

Base on the relevancy of this performance measurement approach, this report adopts it in analyzing the performance both in politics and economy in Nigeria *vis a vis* some selected countries in Africa.

4.0. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

4.1. POLITICAL PERFORMANCE: A SNAPSHOT

Women in Nigerian politics are incredibly too few. In the National Parliament, since 2019 there are only 29 women (about percent of the total), including both the Senate and the House of Representatives. Men, instead, are 440. Nevertheless, there was an increase compared to the cabinet 1990-2003¹⁸. **South Africa's** percentage of women participation in Politics is 46.5%¹⁹

Mauritius is the most prosperous country in Africa and has been for the past 10 years. The island country has been a model since its independence in 1968, and today tops the continent in six pillars, including Governance, Enterprise Conditions, and Education.

¹⁷ Lane, Jan-Erik and Svante Ersson.(2002.), Democratic Performance: Are There Institutional Effects?, in Keman, Hans, (ed). Comparative Democratic Politics. London, Thousand Oaks, New Delhi, SAGE Publications. 233-256.

¹⁸ Women participation in parliament in Africa. Available from <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1248493/percentage-of-women-in-national-parliaments-in-african-countries/> accessed 20th November, 2022

¹⁹ Ibid

In the African Development Bank's report on gender equality in 2018 shows that Rwanda is the first and only country in the world where more than half of the parliamentarians are female²⁰.

Rwanda is the only country in Africa where women outnumber men in the parliament (61.3% as of January 1, 2019). Other countries such as Namibia (46.2%), South Africa (42.7%), or Senegal (41.8%) have set examples for other nations to follow in mainstreaming gender in policymaking²¹.

4.2. ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE: A SNAP COPY OF SOME SELECTED COUNTRIES

a. MAURITIUS

The Legatum Institute's report of the most prosperous country in Africa for 2019 and 2020 analyzed the performance of each country on the key characteristics of inclusive societies, open economies, and empowered people. The report used 12 pillars, comprising 65 different elements, measured by close to 300 discrete country-level indicators, using a wide array of publicly available data sources. The pillars were used to measure progress indicators, offering a tool to measure holistically the institutional, economic, and social components of prosperity. This comprehensive set of indicators provides an incredibly rich and holistic policy-focused dataset, allowing the potential of each country to be identified and understood. This in turn enables much more targeted policy responses that can drive tangible improvements in prosperity²².

²⁰ <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/mainstreaming-gender-african-policymaking-ensuring-no-voice-unheard-32843>

²¹ Ibid

²² Legatum Institute (2020), *The Africa Prosperity Report 2019/20*. Available from <https://li.com/reports/the-africa-prosperity-report-2019-2020/>. Accessed 19th October, 2022

The report found out that Mauritius is the most prosperous country in Africa, and has been for the past 10 years. The island country has been a model since its independence in 1968, and today's tops the continent in six pillars, including Governance, Enterprise Conditions, and Education²³.

Mauritius classifies as the most democratic country in Sub-Saharan Africa. As of 2020, Mauritius' democracy was given 8.14 points, ranking as the only country in entire Africa as fully democratic²⁴.

b. RWANDA

Rwandan economy has so far had impressive gains ever since the Genocide in 1994. Growth averaged 7.2% a year over the decade to 2019, while per capita gross domestic product (GDP) grew at 5%. In 2020, however, the lockdown and social distancing measures, critical to controlling the COVID-19 pandemic, sharply curtailed economic activities. GDP fell by 3.4% in 2020, the first major drop since 1994. **Rwanda** has become well known for its strong economic growth in recent years. The country is up seven ranks to 2nd for enterprise conditions, and up five to 2nd in Africa for its investment environment, with SME financing the strongest in Africa.

c. SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's GDP currently stands 419.9 her economy continues to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. With growth estimated at 1.9% in 2022. Employment growth picked up in the first half of 2022, but the labor market situation remains challenging. Poverty has reached levels not seen for more than a decade, while inflation has increased to a 13-year high. The outlook is clouded with risks, and

²³ Ibid

²⁴ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1204750/democracy-index-in-sub-saharan-africa-by-country/>

sustained reforms and investments are required to support better growth outcomes and poverty reduction.

d. NIGERIA

Nigeria is the largest economy in Africa with a GDP of N45 trillion with a growth rate of 3.54% against Q1 2022. Nigeria's GDP for 2021 was \$440.78B, a 1.96% increase from 2020²⁵. Following the pandemic-induced recession in 2020, Nigeria's economic growth recovered but macroeconomic stability weakened. Amidst global commodity shocks, a depreciating currency, trade restrictions, and monetization of the deficit, inflation is surging and pushing millions of Nigerians into poverty. Since 2021, Nigeria is also unable to benefit from the surging global oil prices, as oil production has fallen to historic lows and petrol subsidy continues to consume a larger share of the gross oil revenues. In 2018, 40% of Nigerians (83 million people) lived below the poverty line, while another 25% (53 million) were vulnerable. With Nigeria's population growth continuing to outpace poverty reduction, the number of Nigerians living in extreme poverty is set to rise by 7.7 million between 2019 and 2024. While the economy is projected to grow at an average of 3.2% in 2022-2024, the growth outlook is subject to downside risks including further declines in oil production and heightened insecurity. Meanwhile, continued scarcity of foreign exchange and tighter liquidity could affect the economic activity in the non-oil sector and undermine the overall macroeconomic stability. The uncertainty is also expected to be accompanied by high inflation and continued fiscal and debt pressures.

4.3. OTHER INDICATIONS FOR MEASURING PERFORMANCE

i. GDP PER CAPITA

²⁵ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1121014/gdp-per-capita-of-african-countries/>

Gross domestic product (GDP) is the total monetary or market value of all the finished goods and services produced within a country's borders in a specific time period. As a broad measure of overall domestic production, it functions as a comprehensive scorecard of a given country's economic health. GDP per capita is calculated by dividing a country's GDP by its population. Per capita GDP is a global measure for gauging the prosperity of nations and is used by economists to analyze the prosperity of a country based on its economic growth. The GDP per Capita shows Seychelles, South Africa, and Egypt got a higher income per Capita with Nigeria lagging behind.

ii. HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT INDEX

According to UNDP the Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and have a decent standard of living. The human capital development index report by the World Bank scored Nigeria with a poor performance having an index of 0.36 and positioned 168 out of 173 countries.

iii. INFLATION

Inflation affects all aspects of the economy, from consumer spending, business investment and employment rates to government programs, tax policies, and interest rates. Inflation affects the value of investment return show's Nigeria among the countries with high rate of inflation as compared to South Africa Egypt and Rwanda who scored lowers inflation rate.

iv. UNEMPLOYMENT

Employment is key component for economic development. The stability of the economy rests on the ability to maintain a low unemployment rate and provide a safe,

secured workplace. Statistics shows that although Nigeria which is facing a debt crisis currently has a debt ratio of 20.3% to her national income²⁶.

v. **MINIMUM WAGES**

Ripples Nigeria provided a report of countries surveyed for the analysis on the monthly minimum wage in Africa. The countries include Morocco, Ghana, Algeria, Egypt, South Africa, Morocco, Kenya, Angola, Libya, and Seychelles. Nigeria scored higher than only Ghana and Angola.



FIGURE 1²⁷:

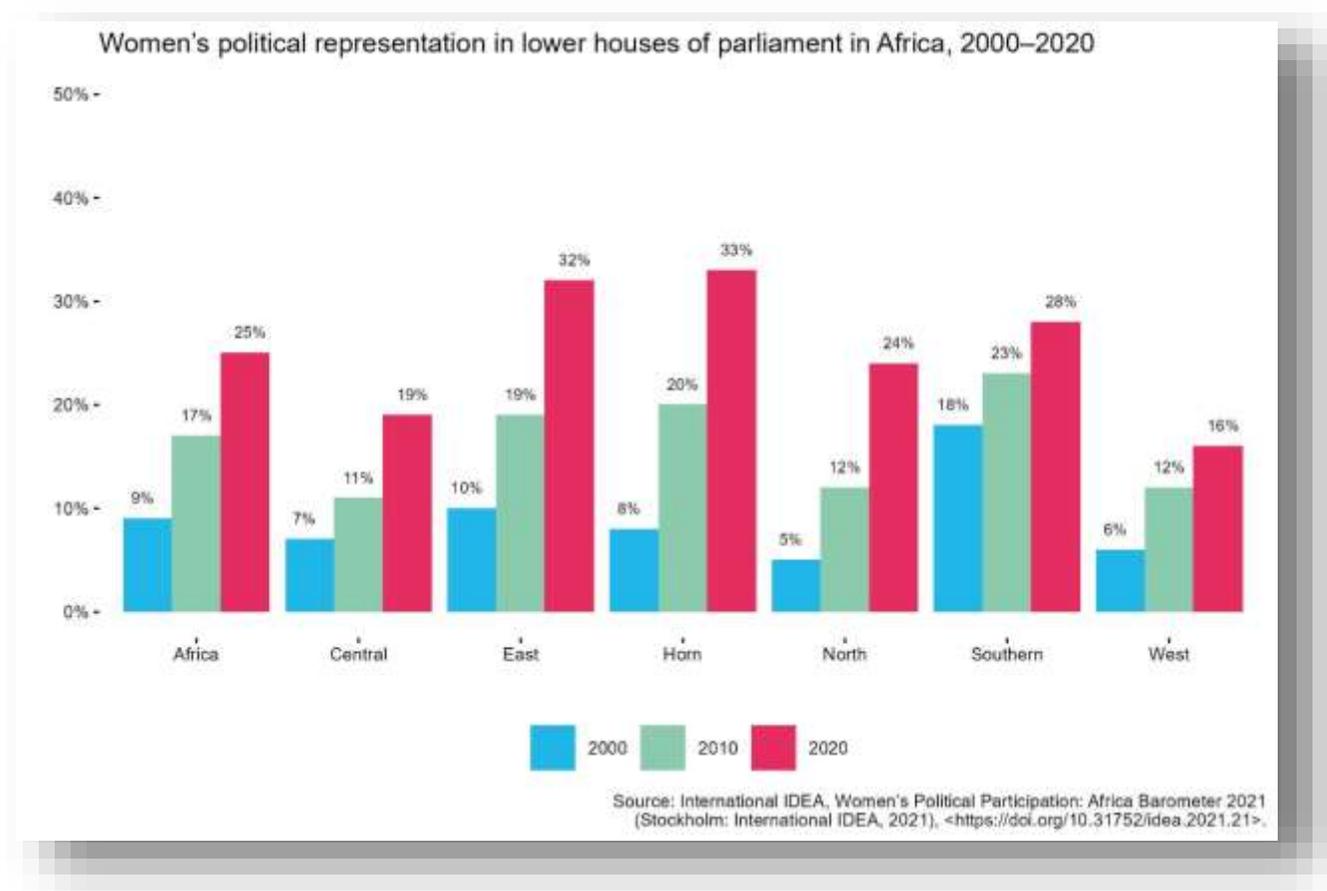
²⁶ <https://tradingeconomics.com/country-list/unemployment-rate?continent=africa>

²⁷ <https://www.ripplesnigeria.com/ripplesmetrics-salaries-of-nigerian-workers-far-less-than-other-african-countries/>

vi. WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS

Electoral system designs are central to promoting women's political participation. Countries with proportional representation (PR) electoral systems have a higher representation of women in parliament. The WPP Barometer finds that the 18 countries with PR (e.g. Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa) have 30 per cent female representation in parliament, whereas the 10 countries with mixed PR and first-past-the-post (FPTP) systems (e.g. Senegal, Tanzania) have 25 per cent female representation, and the 23 countries with a purely FPTP system (e.g. Ethiopia, Uganda) have 22 per cent female representation.

Quotas remain a crucial means of promoting women's political participation. The lowest representation of women in parliaments is found in countries with FPTP electoral systems that do not include quotas or reserved seats. Examples include Botswana, with 11 per cent representation of women, and Nigeria, with 6 per cent female representation.



vii. GENDER BUDGETING

Gender budgeting is an initiative to use fiscal policy and administration to address gender inequality and women's advancement. An analysis of the 2022 budget in Nigeria by the development Research and Projects Centre (DRPC) shows that only N103 billion (0.60 per cent) was allocated to women's economic empowerment when measured as a percentage of the total spending plan. African countries such as Rwanda, gender budgeting is quite significant and taken seriously²⁸. Their current initiative dates back to 2008²⁹.

²⁸ <https://ecdpm.org/work/she-drives-change-volume-6-issue-2-may-june-2017/gender-budgeting-in-sub-saharan-africa>

²⁹ Ibid

It is also discovered that Gabon, Nigeria and Malawi, the government is implementing gender-responsive budgeting to ensure policy commitments related to poverty reduction and gender equality are reflected in budget allocations. Other African countries are developing their own initiatives to address gender-related disparities in their tax systems and financing strategies. Tax exemptions are offered in Sierra Leone for a variety of factors linked to gender equality and women's empowerment³⁰.

To improve women's access to finance, UNDP Accelerator Labs, in collaboration with Jumia Uganda, developed an online platform to connect consumers with micro, small and medium enterprises (85 percent of which are owned by working women). The Negocia platform in Cape Verde is connecting young female entrepreneurs with investors and providing access to seed funding for SDG-aligned businesses³¹.

In Rwanda, the government established a Business Development Fund with a focus on women and youth. One crucial step was that Rwanda, drawing on the model of Austria, enacted in 2012/2013 an organic budget law, which incorporated gender budgeting formally into budget laws and made Gender Budget Statements mandatory. The gender budgeting framework in Rwanda importantly assigns the lead role to the Ministry of Finance in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion and spending ministries³². Rwanda has taken the significant step of integrating its gender budgeting initiative into its reform of public financial management to put in place programme or results-based budgeting through sectoral identification of gender-related goals and identification of desired outcomes. Rwanda started its gender budgeting efforts with four pilot Ministries of Education, Health, Agriculture, and Infrastructure, a useful acknowledgment of the importance of gender equality in both the social and economic sectors. After rolling out the initiative to the

³⁰ <https://undp.medium.com/african-countries-lead-the-way-on-gender-responsive-development-financing-259cfd738610>

³¹ Ibid

³² <https://ecdpm.org/work/she-drives-change-volume-6-issue-2-may-june-2017/gender-budgeting-in-sub-saharan-africa>

entire national government, it also extended the initiative to the sub-national level (called districts), an important recognition that the subnational government is also responsible for critical public services in health, education, infrastructure, and other areas. Rwanda shows that it is possible to embed gender budgeting into the normal budgetary processes of a national government and subnational governments to address identified gender gaps and girls' and women's needs. South Africa also has a formidable gender budgeting inclusion. Where it has had two distinct gender budgeting efforts, both of which led to some fiscal policy and administrative changes³³.

However, both initiatives waned, even though the government indicates that it remains firmly committed to gender equality and addressing women's needs. Over time, several fiscal policies or programme changes at the national level were attributed to gender budgeting or related initiatives including the zero-rating of paraffin (i.e., kerosene) in the VAT in 2001 to reduce the tax burden on poor women who rely on this source of fuel and some social spending programs that were seen to have a disproportionate benefit to female-headed homes and businesses³⁴.

In Zambia, the UNCDF Loan Guarantee Portfolio Facility will provide the majority of its US\$600,000 in guarantees and technical assistance to women. In Botswana, the Stock Exchange is looking into gender bonds and pushing the adoption of criteria to reduce detrimental gender practices in the workplace³⁵.

viii. SECURITY

In 2021, the Democratic Republic of the Congo had the highest organized crime index in Africa, scoring 7.7 points. Nigeria ranked second with a total of 7.38 points.

³³ Ibid

³⁴ <https://ecdpm.org/work/she-drives-change-volume-6-issue-2-may-june-2017/gender-budgeting-in-sub-saharan-africa>

³⁵ Ibid

To follow, other African countries with significant criminality levels were the Central African Republic, Kenya, South Africa, and Libya³⁶.

Organized crime index in Africa as of 2021, by country

| Characteristic | Index (1-10) |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Congo, Dem. Rep. | 7.7 |
| Nigeria | 7.38 |
| Central African Republic | 7.29 |
| Kenya | 6.86 |
| South Africa | 6.4 |
| Libya | 6.4 |
| Mozambique | 6.38 |
| Sudan | 6.26 |
| South Sudan | 6.23 |
| Cameroon | 6.2 |
| Côte D'Ivoire | 6.16 |

FIGURE 3

In the same vein, the 2019 report by Legatum Institute³⁷ presented the pathetic security situation in the country. Nigeria scored 49 out of 54 in Africa. The report is captured below;

³⁶ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1223810/countries-with-the-highest-organized-crime-index-in-africa/>

³⁷ Legatum Institute (2020), *The Africa Prosperity Report 2019/20*. Available from <https://li.com/reports/the-africa-prosperity-report-2019-2020/>. Accessed 19th October, 2022

Regime Types in Africa
2020

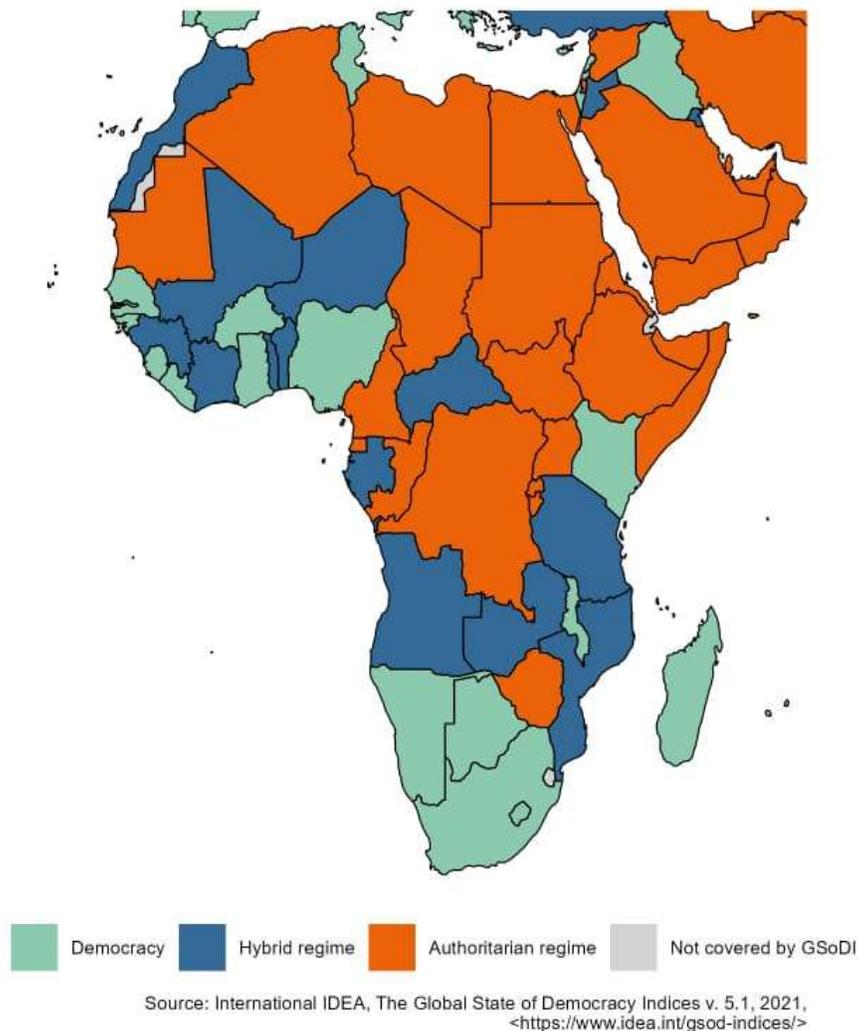


FIGURE 5

ix. EDUCATION

For educational sector, the report by Legatum Institute shows that Nigeria is well behind in educational sector as it scored between ranks 131-155. This shows that the sector is still transitioning which is why the number of out of school children and illiteracy level are high (now at about 31%³⁹). According to the World Bank, Nigeria, in 2020, had more than 11 million out-of-school children between the ages of 6 and

³⁹ <https://www.google.com/amp/s/businessday.ng/amp/news/article/nigerias-illiteracy-rate-is-now-31-says-fg/>

15. This figure represents 1 in 12 of all out-of-school children globally and 22 per cent of all children in the age group in Nigeria⁴⁰. This can be found below.

Education 2019

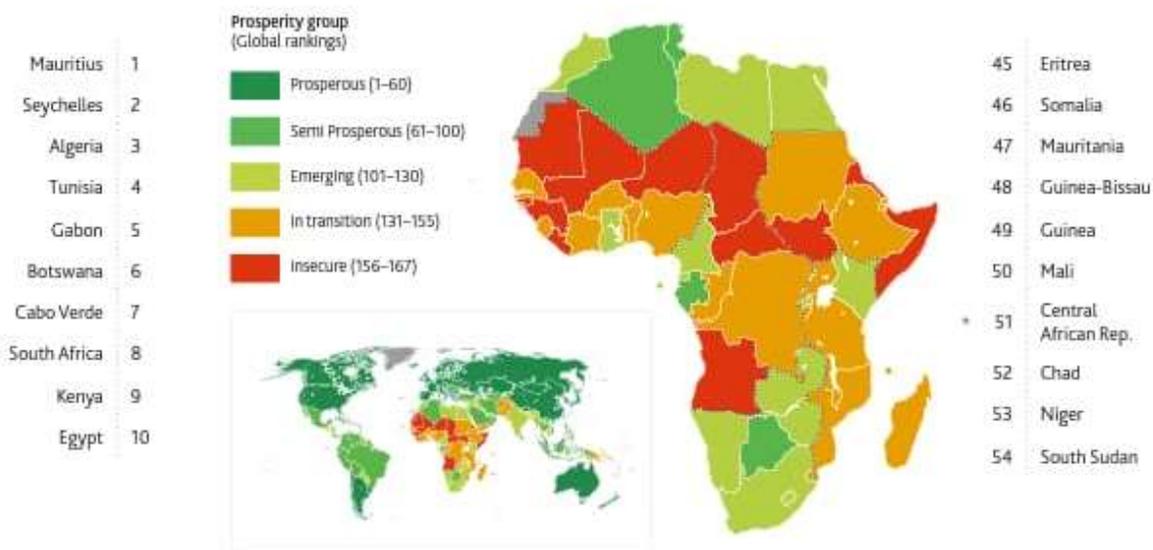


FIGURE 6

x. HEALTH

Under the health sector, Nigeria did not also score well. In fact, available reports shows that Nigeria is an insecure place in terms of health whilst countries like Seychelles, Mauritius, and Algeria took first, second and third positions in Africa.

⁴⁰ <https://www.thecable.ng/despite-alternative-intervention-number-of-out-of-school-children-keeps-rising-in-nigeria/amp>

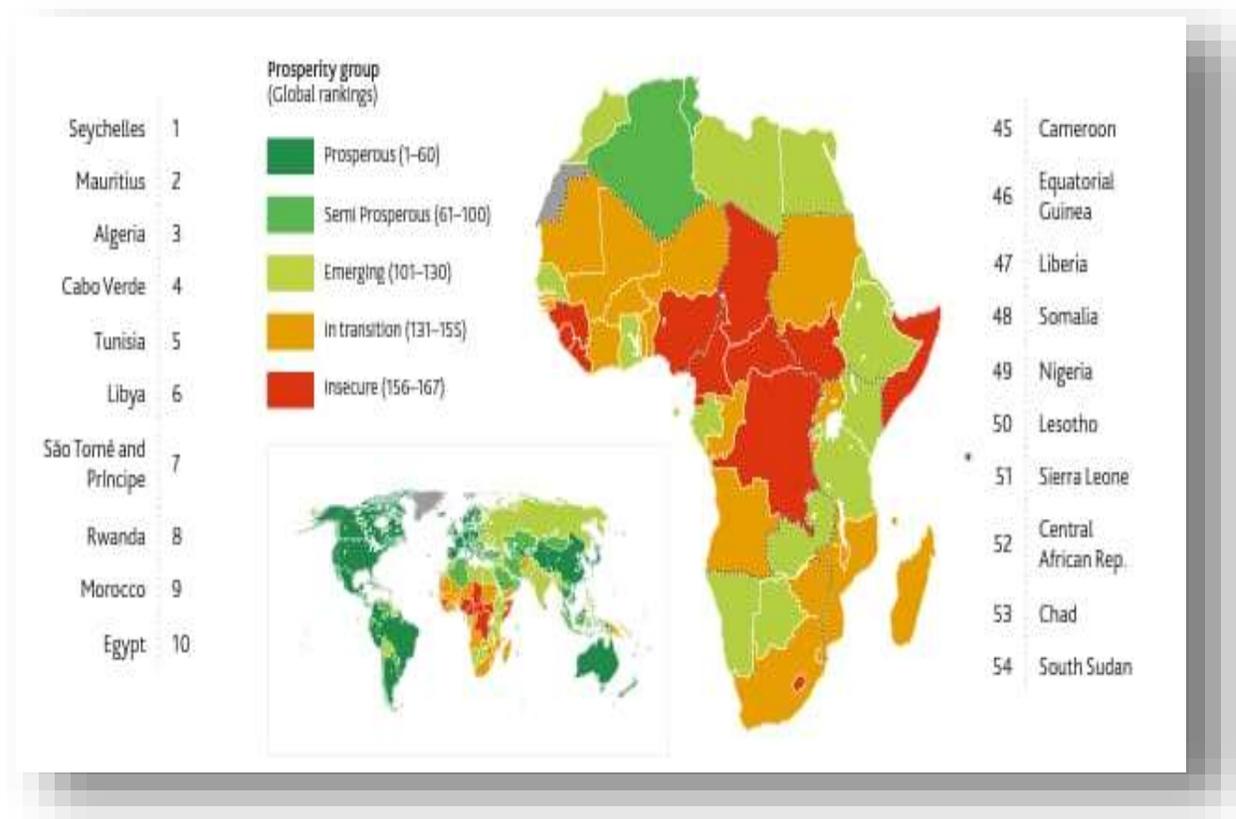


FIGURE 6

xi. INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT/EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

The ease of doing business in Africa or investment environment also contains Africa’s top four performers, Mauritius (1st), Rwanda (2nd), Seychelles (3rd), and Kenya (4th). Business owners in the region are more optimistic about property rights, have more confidence in the soundness of banks, and credit information has grown from very low to be close to the best in Africa. As a result, the proportion of businesses in East Africa reporting problems accessing finance has fallen from 44% to 30% over the past decade.

This can be found in the report below;

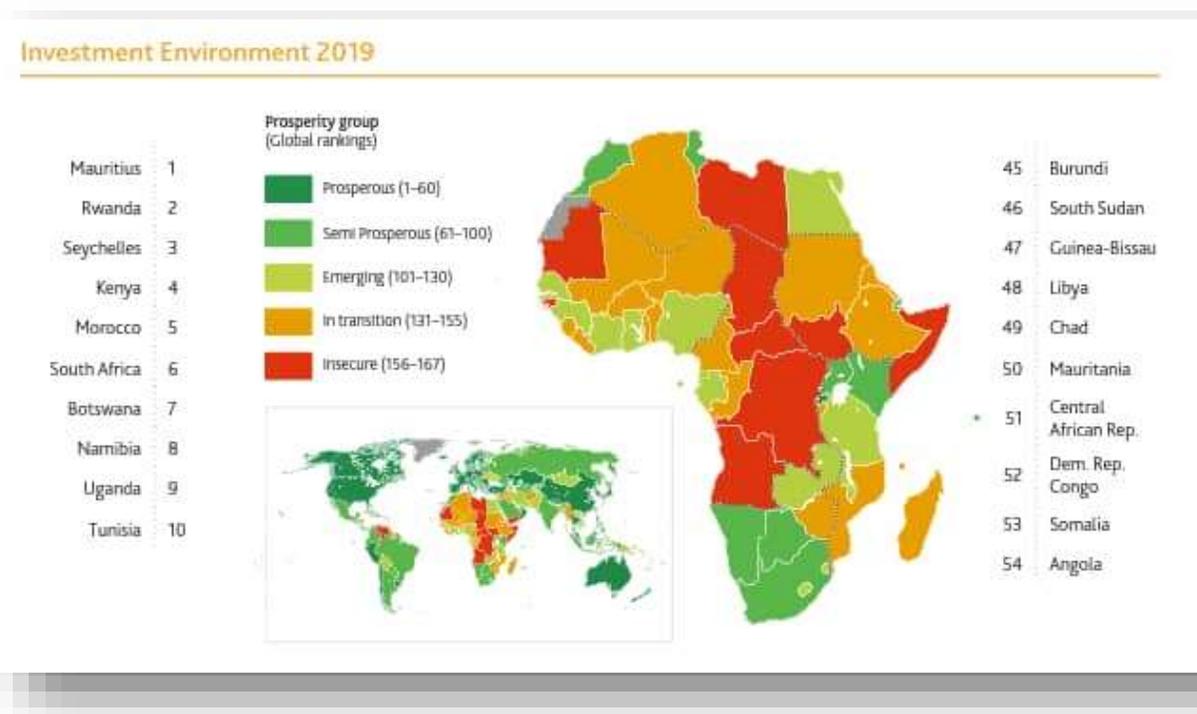


FIGURE 7

5.0. FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR POOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE IN NIGERIA

As Legatum Institute reported, Nigeria amongst other African Countries' poverty rates were at par with India's and lowers than China's in 1990. Since then, extreme poverty in China has been almost eliminated, and in India it is less than half the rate it was 30 years ago. However, in Africa, the poverty rate has been reduced by less than a third. Likewise, there is a wide disparity in economic growth rates, with India and China realizing much higher per capita income growth than Africa for the same period. From the available statistics gathered, it is found that these African countries have declined from being 30% larger than India's in GDP to now 30% smaller. What could have accounted for this? This report has garnered from available data the factors inhibiting the performance of the Country.

These include but not limited to;

Deteriorating Safety and Security and exacerbated by poor Governance, are the biggest constraints on Nigeria's prosperity. At its height, Boko Haram has been present in up to five Nigerian states, as well as neighboring Cameroon and Chad, causing widespread terror and disruption to civilians and state security forces. Deaths from terrorism have increased from 0.6 to 24.5 per million people in the last 10 years, well above the African average of 8.6. In separate incidents, Nigeria has experienced deadly ethnic clashes in the 'middle belt' of the country, as well as off-shore piracy in the Niger Delta. The government has had to draw on huge resources to manage conflicts, particularly in the north, but has failed to prevent damages to local economies, as well as health and education infrastructure⁴¹ Corruption in Nigeria further impedes a resolution to the conflict in the north, as they hold up delivery of supplies and weaponry to conflict zones⁴²

Other problems include the problem of political instability, poor economic policies, illiteracy rate amongst citizens, and lack of political will, religious and ethnic biases, etc.

6.0. LESSONS LEARNT FROM SELECTED COUNTRIES

a. Government policies

The policies set out by the government played a key role in the economic and political progress of the fast developing nations. In 2001, the poverty rate in Rwanda was as high as 77%, dropping to 55% in 2017. The government introduced the first five-year Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy in 2008 and a second five-

⁴¹Tope Akinyetun, "Underdevelopment in Nigeria: The Nigerian Reinvention – Afrojugation," International Research Journal of Human Resources and Social Sciences 3 No. 5 (2016): 189.

⁴² Ibid

year plan in 2013 that largely account for the reduction. Before the pandemic, unemployment in Rwanda was steadily declining, dropping to less than 1% in 2019. Like many countries, lockdowns and other preventive measures for COVID-19 originally caused unemployment to skyrocket back up to 1.35% in 2020. However, Rwanda quickly bounced back — employment rates rose from 43% in the second quarter of 2020 to nearly 49% in the third quarter. Government policies also made South Africa to triple their GDP from 1996 when they came off international sanctions to 2011. The policy made it easy for South Africa to diversify their economy into the mining sector, technology and improve their agricultural development.

This is similar to what Egypt have adopted, the economy of Egypt used to be a highly centralized economy, focused on import substitution under president Gamal Abdel Nasser (1954–1970). During the rule of President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi (2014–present), the economy follows Egypt's 2030 Vision. The policy is aimed at diversifying Egypt's economy. The reforms and policies have strengthened macroeconomic annual growth results. As Egypt's economy healed, other prominent issues like unemployment and poverty began to decline significantly. The country benefits from increased export and enjoys a strong currency and all this is as results of the dynamic government policies which have proven strongly positive.

b. Education

Education tends to raise productivity and creativity, as well as stimulate entrepreneurship and technological breakthroughs. It promotes tranquility. Rwanda was able to adopt an un-biased history education while trying to build a strong democratic base. Therefore, history was to be impartial in order for students to be open-minded and to develop critical thinking skills. Students need an unbiased perspective particularly regarding ethnic tensions in Rwanda's history as causality of the genocide. Rwanda was also successful in creating a compulsory and free primary

education. Has not only increased the literacy level but also promote unity among the younger generation in the country. Through education it has allay the fears of disparities between individuals or groups in Rwanda. Historically, Rwanda was home to some of the highest rates of inequality in Africa. However, this is changing. Over the past two decades, Rwanda has noted significant improvements in terms of access to utilities. From 2006 to 2017, inequality declined from 0.52 to 0.43 as measured by the Gini index.

c. Gender parity

Women's participation in nation-building is an important ingredient in achieving an equitable, peaceful and more prosperous society, according to a RAND study. According to World Economic Forum's 2017 Global Gender Gap Report, Rwanda ranked as one of the top leading countries in gender equality alongside Finland, Iceland, Sweden and Norway. Since the civil war, the nation has pushed for more female leadership in politics. In light of the new constitution adopted in 2003, the government decided to implement gender quotas in the parliament. This was a drastic and visible change, and led to Rwanda having the highest number of female parliamentarians in the world. The government also highlighted gender related issues as an important step for development. As of November 2021, the Rwandan parliament has a 61% women-led majority, the world's highest rate of female representation in parliament. Rwanda also has one the highest rates of women participating in the labor force at 84% in 2019. South Africa sits at second position behind Rwanda in women representation in the parliament with a percentage of 46.5. The above is quite evident that there's a strong positive link between women participation in governance and growth.

7.0. CONCLUSION

This report has identified the challenges affecting Nigeria's economic and political performance. It also have captured those countries in Africa who have being performing quite well as such, the report has gathered the lessons from them for Nigeria to learn from. The report also observed that transformation is a gradual process that demands consistency and commitment.