

**African Union Development Agency and the New Partnership for
Africa's Development (AUDA –NEPAD) in Economic Development of
Nigeria: Rivers and Bayelsa States in Perspective**

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Abstract

This study examined the African Union Development Agency - The New Partnership for African's Development (AUDA -NEPAD) and its challenges in the development of Nigeria: The Rivers and Bayelsa States in perspective was developed as an economic programme under the African Union Commission and it was initiated by the former President of Algeria Abdelaziz Bouteflika and the former Presidents of Egypt Hosni Mubarak, Nigeria Olusegun Obasanjo, Senegal Abdoulaye Wade and South Africa Thabo Mbeki. NEPAD was fully adopted during the 37th Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in July 2001 at Lusaka, Zambia with four core objectives, namely, to eradicate poverty, promote sustainable growth and development, integrate Africa in the world economy and accelerate the empowerment of women. Thereafter, the resolution of the UN General Assembly also supported NEPAD framework as the main channel for the UN to actually render assistance to Africa. In January 2010, the NEPAD structures were fully integrated into the African Union as the planning and coordinating agency before it was changed to the African Union Development Agency at the eleventh extraordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union in November 2018 to be a vehicle in order to better the implementation of the African Union Agenda of 2063. This study investigates the reasons AUDA-NEPAD has not fully solved the development problems in Nigeria; to analyze the main problem of AUDA-NEPAD in achieving its set goals and to proffer useful suggestions for the way forward. The study adopts qualitative technique and employed content analysis. The theoretical framework adopted for this research was the Blueprint theory. The study notes that AUDA-NEPAD has not fully achieved its main targets in Nigeria which is to solve the country's developmental needs, AUDA-NEPAD-Nigeria lacks enabling law to deliver its programmes across the states and it also suffers from inadequate funding and lack of political will towards AUDA-NEPAD programmes and activities in Nigeria. The study therefore, recommends among others for the prompt and sustained implementation of AUDA-NEPAD priorities, programmes and policies, execute developmental goals under the AUDA-NEPAD programmes and importantly pass into law and assent the AUDA-NEPAD-Nigeria commission bill.

Keywords: AUDA-NEPAD, Development, Economic growth, Rivers state, Bayelsa state.

Introduction

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) was formally established as an active economic programme under the African Union. NEPAD as an agency for development was initiated through the merger of two plans for the development of Africa. These were the Millennium Partnership for the African Recovery Programme(MAP) and the OMEGA plan for Africa developed by the current President of Algeria Bouteflika and former presidents of Egypt Hosni Mubarak, Nigeria Olusegun Obasanjo, Senegal Abdoulaye Wade and South Africa Thabo Mbeki. NEPAD was fully adopted during the African Union 37th Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July 2001 at Lusaka, Zambia with four core objectives which include; to eradicate poverty, promote sustainable growth and development, integrate Africa in the world economy and accelerate the empowerment of women. Thereafter, the resolution of the UN General Assembly also supported NEPAD framework as the main channel for the UN to actually render assistance to Africa and in January 2010, the NEPAD structures were fully integrated into the African Union as the planning and coordinating agency. But, during its 31st ordinary session of the Assembly of African Union Heads of State and Government in Nouakchott, Mauritania, June 2018, session a was considered to change the agency of NEPAD Planning and Coordination into the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD(AUDA-NEPAD) towards advancing the operational effectiveness of the Union impact.

AUDA-NEPAD is designed as the socio-economic blue print for the African Union .It is expected that it should be better prepared to face the problem of transformation in Africa. According to its advocates, AUDA-NEPAD is a holistic, comprehensive, integrated strategic framework for the socio-economic development of Africa. It is a comprehensive integrated development plan that addresses key social, economic and political priorities in a coherent and balanced manner. It is said to be a commitment of African leaders to accelerate the integration of the continent into the global economy, hence, it is also a framework for a new partnership with the rest of the world (Aredo, 2003).

AUDA-NEPAD is a product of new thinking in governance designed to grant the people greater freedom, respect their rights and protect their properties within the framework of democracy. As a policy framework, AUDA-NEPAD is expected to complement the African Union by providing the policy and programme direction for the effective operationalisation of the Union.To achieve

the agenda set up by AUDA-NEPAD , African leaders have accepted to take joint responsibilities to achieve the following goals: good political ,economic and cooperate governance; the promotion and protection of democracy and human rights through the development of clear standards of accountability, transparency and participative governance; restoration and maintenance of macro-economic stability ; the rebuilding of the capacity of African states to set and enforce legal framework and maintain law and order in Obi , Ozor and Nwokoye (2008: 203).

The opening paragraph of AUDA-NEPAD foundational document (October 2001) holds thus; This New Partnership for African Development is a pledge by African leaders, based on a common vision and a firm and shared conviction, that they have a pressing duty to eradicate poverty and to place their countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development and at the same time to participate actively in the world economy and body politics. The programme is anchored on the determination of Africans to extricate themselves and the continent from the malaise of underdevelopment and exclusion in a globalizing world. (Cited in Nwankwo, Ogbaji and Oguegbunam 2014).

For Kalagbor (2004) New Partnership for Africa's Development constitutes a strategy for achieving sustainable growth and development in Africa in the 21st century. It is an initiative of African leaders, a long-term vision of an Africa-owned, and Africa-led and managed development programme. AUDA-NEPAD primarily seeks to solve problems of endemic underdevelopment, severe poverty, security and marginalization of Africa in the international political economy and properly place African countries on the path of sustainable growth and development and at the same time, ensure that they actively participate in the global economy and politics. It represents a call for a new partnership between Africa and the international community, especially the highly industrialised countries and multilateral organizations, to overcome the development chasm that has widened over centuries of unequal relations and to build on and celebrate the achievements of the past, as well as reflect on the lessons learned through painful experience, so as to establish a partnership that is both credible and capable of implementation.

The general purpose of AUDA-NEPAD is to overcome the problems of Africa that were unsolvable for so long and to defeat the backwardness of the continent by achieving sustainable development. Although it is seen to focus on economic integration and development, its ambitious goals also include making political and social reforms and maintaining good governance in every

African country. Hope (2002) describes NEPAD to be a “home grown solution to overcome Africa’s marginalisation in the world economy and international affairs, while improving the standard of living of the African people. On the other hand, AUDA-NEPAD initiators are conscious that these ambitious objectives cannot be achieved unless a number of priorities are fulfilled. These are peace and security; democracy and good, political, economic and corporate governance; regional co-operation and integration; capacity building. AUDA-NEPAD’s correlation of economic development with political improvement is one of its innovations. There are some plans and mechanisms undertaken by AUDA-NEPAD such as African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) which aims to realise the democratisation and good governance goals, Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) for agricultural development and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) for poverty reduction. Overcoming the backwardness and underdevelopment of Africa is a difficult task but hopefully not impossible mission. We see that AUDA-NEPAD has a comprehensive approach to the problem as we look at the objectives and priorities. The rhetoric of goals and aims are well constructed and everyone, including NEPAD itself, accepts that they are ambitious goals. NEPAD is even called as “Africa’s Marshall Plan” by the British Prime Minister Gordon Brown. Besides, the initiative wishes to meet the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals for 2015. Suffering from poverty, pandemic diseases, hunger, civil wars, economic decline etc. for decades, Africa has no time to lose. It is important to find out if the initiative has the potential and sincerity to achieve them cited in Bostan (2011).

Statement of the Problem

AUDA-NEPAD as an alternative means of development was formed on the needs of African leaders who deemed it important to focus on the objectives of African Union towards the path of sustainable growth and development. It was backed with the intention of enduring democracy, political, economic and cooperate governance with the various leaders projecting their honesty, transparency, accountability and effective governance. They generally agreed also to adhere to the rule of law, equality of every individuals, freedom of expression, separation of powers, credible democratic political system and the adherence to the independence of the judiciary and in addition the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).

Despite the existence of AUDA-NEPAD in Africa, Nigeria and in relation to Bayelsa and Rivers state it has faced with some obstacles that retard its effectiveness and efficiency in the Nigerian states. AUDA-NEPAD –Nigeria has the challenge of projecting a formidable sustainable political leadership, effective capacity building mechanism, active integration of AUDA-NEPAD priorities in states national programmes, the issue of widening of APRM involvement, the expansion of greater country infrastructures across members country. It is based on these that the study will investigate why AUDA-NEPAD-Nigeria has not fully achieved its main targets, which is to solve the country developmental needs, the enabling laws by NEPAD to deliver its programmes, why NEPAD suffers from inadequate funding and lack of political will towards AUDA-NEPAD programmes and activities in Nigeria.

The Concept of Development

Ake (2001) sees development as a process by which people create and recreate themselves and their life circumstances to realize higher levels of civilization in accordance with their own choices and value. It is observed that the concept of development has not enjoyed the desired intellectual consensus. While some sees it as modern society (modernization), some believed it is basically a factor of man in Nwankwo, Ogbaji and Ezeigwe (2018: 15).

Similarly for, Arvind and Everett (1989:841) in Ibodje (2009:4) refers to development as a widely participatory process of directed social change in society intended to bring about both social and material advancement, including greater freedom, equality and other valued qualities for the majority of the people through their gaining greater control over their environment. It is from these characterizations of development that some scholars have equated development with westernization, implying that countries aspiring to develop should struggle to attain the social indices of the west. Thus Offiong (in Obi, 2005:27) observes that:

What modernization theories most often end up with is in eventuating Ethnocentric practical recipes which admonish the poor societies to imitate them (i.e. Western societies) all the way and they would acquire a sudden leap into the 20th century, in other words, join the Calvinistic cult and you will experience a sudden leap into modernity.

Yerokun (1989:18) referring to Ajayi in Kalagbor (2004: 4) notes that western scholars acknowledge the notion that:

Development means modernization and modernization is only a liberalized version of westernization which enables a developing country to seek inspiration not only from Europe and America, but also from the westernized parts of far East. However, based on these analysis, I am of the view that development is the advancement of all the activities, programmes of man in society. More so, it is the improvement of goods and service in the human system.

Theoretical Framework

Based on this research, this study employed the Blue-Print theory of Development as it framework of analysis. This approach formally emerged through the explanations provided by Korten in (1984). Korten sees the blue print approach as the careful and detail pre-planning process and it real sense separation of planning from implementation strategies.

Olewe (1995) the Blue- Print approach involves the process of designing specific plans of action with component programmes and projects aimed at development engineering. Particularly in this approach, the elite in the position of authority, do often arrogate to themselves the exclusive knowledge of what is good for the society and the programmes which should be put in place in order to move the system forward along the path of development according to their preferences. Thus, the Blue-Print approach is regarded as elitist in nature with the characteristic of the planning-from-above.

To the extent that the Blue-Print-Approach has the characteristic of planning-from-above, it does not encourage participation by the public in decisions about the development of their environments. Rather, it is the elite that claim to know better what is good for the people, and they are the ones who decide on the approaches to be adopted. One advantage of this approach is that, it is said to be better positioned to generate programmes that are more focused, more direct and better packaged than those that are products of inputs from different groups and social strata with different and conflicting orientations. It is also argued that, since the elites are the ones to determine the implementation process eventually they may be more committed to programmes that are products of their own ideas and preferences. However, the experiences of most third world countries, including Nigeria, do show that even where national issues of development are subjected to public debates and opinions, their outcomes do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the masses.

Again, the experiences of these countries have also shown that the fact that programmes are products of the preferences of the elite does not necessarily mean that they will be implemented. The reason being that in the Third World nations, new ruling groups in power often hardly follow the programmes of their predecessors. And given the unstable nature of the political environments of these nations, the cemeteries for their development programmes are filled with the bones of dead programmes of the Blue-Print approach. Thus, as have stated elsewhere;

Given the level of instability that is often witnessed in the development efforts of the Third World countries, particularly in the areas of needed resources and political environment, the Blue-Print Approach tends often to experience a gap between what is contained in the vision of the elite and what is actually achieved (Ibodje, 1999:162).

More so, the relevant of this approach to the analysis of the New Partnership for Africa's Development is highly obvious to the developmental approach of African countries. The approach enables us to be enlightens towards our understanding of the complex challenges where leaders can clearly identify and recommends ways in solving them. Because the approach emphasizes more of elitism in determining country's needs. The framework made us to understand and revealed that organisations are the agents of planning and implementation towards empowerment and development which are usually designed by the elite class.

Review of Related Literature

This aspect would review some literatures that will be of relevant to the research work which will be of help to identify the research findings.

AUDA-NEPAD and its Roles for Development

Izeze (2004) citing the African Development Bank, defines AUDA-NEPAD as a holistic, integrated , strategic development plan to enhance growth and poverty reduction in Africa by focusing key social, economic and political priorities in a coherent and balanced manner. African leaders formed a common vision and shared conviction that they have a pressing duty to eradicate poverty and place their countries on a path of sustainable growth and development and participate

in the world economy and body politic. It is designed to tackle the challenges facing the African continent.

Africa Renewal (2011) over the past 10 years, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) has launched a number of bold and innovative programmes. Africa Renewal highlights NEPAD impact in five key areas: Through its ICT broadband infrastructure programme, NEPAD aims to connect all African countries through optical fibre, to this and two cable system, one submarine (Uhurunet) and another terrestrial (Umojanet) are currently being built. NEPAD has also launched the e-schools initiative, to improve the quality of teaching and learning in African secondary and primary schools using (ICT). Sixteen African countries and more than 80 schools participated in the NEPAD e-schools demonstration project. Advancing women's economic capacities and opportunities, that is, it was created in 2007 with funding from the government of Spain, to eradicate poverty and advance women's economic capacities and opportunities. In doing this, a total of £6.285 million (around \$8.5 million) was disbursed to 46 projects in 23 countries. So far over 31 of these projects have been completed. Recently, the fund allocated £2 million (around \$2.7 million) for setting up a business incubator for African women entrepreneurs in Eastern, Southern and Western Africa. Pushing for changes in agriculture strategies, NEPAD is pushing for substantial changes in agriculture. NEPAD has supported various programmes, including partnership for African Fisheries (RAF) it was launched also in 2005 a regional initiative, Terve Africa, to improve land management. Establishing a strategy for developing infrastructure, this was launched in July 2010 at a summit of the African Union in Kampala ,Uganda, the initiatives was geared towards NEPAD short-term Action plan, the NEPAD medium-for-long-term strategic framework and the AU infrastructure master plan. Encouraging local production of medicines, this strategy was adopted by a summit of the African Union in 2007, the pharmaceutical manufacturing plan for Africa aims to encourage local production of medicines, which currently are largely produced by foreign pharmaceutical companies, towards this and NEPAD has published a strategic documents, strengthening pharmaceutical innovation in Africa.

Hope (2002) argument was that NEPAD "constitutes the most important advanced in African development policy during the last four decades" is strong because it represents a real attempt by multiple African nations to work together in creating an effective development programme promoting "peace and stability, democracy, sound economic development, and people-centric

development”. It has also helped cement ideas of the link between good governance and sustainable development, the two processes becoming inseparable as Zack-Williams notes: “no democracy, no development”. In the four decades previous to the adoption of AUDA-NEPAD development strategy and policy had been the domain of the African Union, created in 1963 to improve the situation of all Africans, aiming to eradicate poverty and raise living standards for all in Morbi (2011).

AUDA-NEPAD also solicits funds towards regional studies, infrastructure development programmes and poverty alleviation projects that would become an integral part of the AUDA-NEPAD initiative. A multi-faceted approach was envisaged to harmonise economic and investment policies, provide essential public goods in the areas of transportation, energy, water, education and health facilities and to promote intra African trade and investments, to enhance Africa’s competitiveness and enable economies to grow within the current context of globalisation (Nabudere, 2002:60-61) cited in Ijeoma (2008: 143). Melber (2002) reports that for the achievement of its broad objectives, NEPAD has identified these measurable goals and tasks: promote and protect democracy and human rights, promote the development of infrastructure, agriculture and its diversification into agro-industries and manufacturing to serve both domestic and export markets. For Obasanjo (2002) AUDA-NEPAD mechanism seeks to hold political leaders accountable. This is laudable idea although it is difficulty in practice.

Development Activities of Rivers and Bayelsa States AUDA-NEPAD since inception

Rivers AUDA -NEPAD programmes and activities	Bayelsa AUDA-NEPAD programmes and activities
NEPAD-Rivers successfully organised ICT workshop in secondary schools in the state, free books donation to Kalabari National College by NEPAD-Rivers, Awareness campaign on HIV/AIDS in Rivers tertiary institutions, Partnership with Rivers police, road safety for peaceful existence, organised	Training of Youth in 2010, 2011, Empowerment of Bayelsa state farmers, Award winning programmes in the state through captain of industries ,top performing appointees in the state were 8 golds, 16 silver,33 bronze was won and awarded , NEPAD-Bayelsa launched its two years

<p>free graduate skill acquisition programmes, NEPAD-Rivers had organised harvesting exercise at its integrated farms, Carried out partnership agreement on youth empowerment, embarked on the training of 80 youth at Norway, frequent visit of orphanage homes, establishment of NEPAD-Rivers state offices across 23 LGAs, embarked on the training of youth in agriculture at Ireland, establishment of NEPAD Agriconnect. Carried out Computer Basics training on youth, NEPAD-Rivers donated library to comprehensive secondary school at Borokiri port Harcourt city, Implementation of 1million book project. Rivers NEPAD has given out Insecticide Treated Nets free to the people.</p>	<p>strategic framework in 2011, Organized talent hunt show, fashion show by children, Seminars on how to spend wisely during festive period, NEPAD-Bayelsa gave out grant to 60 cooperatives through the United Nations African Development Foundation, Capacity building training for staff, Empowerment of Bayelsa farmers with Chinese grants. Approval of E-schools project in each local government area by the State Executive Council in 2012(not implemented).</p>
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Source: NEPAD activities and programmes since inception

AUDA-NEPAD and its General / Objectives

The main goals of The New Partnership for Africa’s Development are “to help eradicate poverty in Africa and place African countries ... on the path of sustainable growth and development and thus halt the marginalisation of Africa in the globalisation process.” According to the AUDA-NEPAD document issued in October 2001, the requisite conditions towards achieving these lofty goals include ‘selecting’ ‘urgent priorities’ that ‘would have catalytic effect for the intervention in other priority areas in the future.’ This will include factors such as “infrastructure, capital accumulation, human capital, institutions, structural diversification, competitiveness, health and good stewardship of the environment.” In Ogbinaka (2006:8).

However, the AUDA- NEPAD’s formulated goals designed to be actualized in the shortest possible time in the view of Aredo, (2003) and Mbeki (2002) include the following: :(a)

to promote accelerated growth and sustainable development;(b) to eradicate widespread and severe poverty;(c) to halt the marginalization of Africa in the global process;(d) to ensure African ownership, responsibility and leadership(e) making African ownership, responsibility and leadership more efficient and effective;(f) to unleash the vast economic potentials of the continent;(g) to achieve and sustain an average Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of over 7%for the next fifteen (15) years;(h) to increase investment in human resources development;(i) to promote sub-regional and continental economic integration;(j) to develop a new partnership with industrialized countries and multilateral organisations on the basis of mutual commitments, obligations, interests, contributions and benefits; (k) to strengthen Africa's capacity to lead her own development and improve coordination with development partners; (l) to ensure that there is a capacity to lead negotiations on behalf of the continent on major development programmes that requires coordination at a continental level;(m) to ensure that there is a capacity to accelerate implementation of major regional development co-operation agreements and projects already approved or in the pipeline; and(n) to strengthen Africa's capacity to mobilized additional external resources for its development (Nwanolue 2005, 227-228) cited in Nwankwo, Ogbaji and Ezeigwe (2018: 19).

For Kalagbor (2004: 181) similarly, AUDA-NEPAD document declares that the African leaders will take joint responsibility for the following -:

- Strengthening mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution at the sub-regional and continental levels, and to ensure that these mechanisms are used to restore and maintain peace
- Promoting and protecting democracy and human rights in their respective countries and regions and by developing clear standards of accountability, transparency and participatory governance at the national and sub-national levels;
- Restoring and maintaining macroeconomic stability, especially by developing appropriate standards and targets for fiscal and monetary policies, and introducing appropriate institutional framework to achieve these standards;
- Instituting legal and regulatory frameworks for financial markets and auditing of private companies and the public sector;

- Revitalizing and extend the provision of educational, technical training and health services, with high priority given to tackling HIV/AIDS, malaria and other communicable diseases;
- Promoting the role of women
- Building the capacity of states in Africa
- Promoting the development of infrastructure, agriculture

AUDA-NEPAD and its Problems for Development

According to Obi, Ozor and Nwokoye (2008) what one considers the biggest challenge to NEPAD is the issue of leadership and real commitment. There is no doubt that Africa is where it is today because of the problem of poor leadership and not out of lack of suitable development paradigms or programmes like AUDA-NEPAD.

According to Startup (2007) some African citizens are despondent and hopeless about AUDA-NEPAD. Many feel that NEPAD offers nothing new and it is just another plan destined to be mired in Africa's old problems of corruption and self-interest. At a multi - stakeholder dialogue held in South Africa in October of 2004, the consensus was reached that AUDA-NEPAD was primarily another "talk shop". Landsberg (2003a) adds that many African civil society actors have vehemently rejected AUDA-NEPAD. They perceive it as a dependent that ignores Africa's internal problems. Bodibe (2002) adds that African civil society rejects AUDA-NEPAD because it maintains that the only way to advance African development is through neo - liberal capitalist path and yet in most of Africa capitalism does not exist. Stuurman (2004) further emphasises that civil organizations complain that the knowledge of AUDA-NEPAD is relatively low among its ranks. Findings highlight that about a large percentage of African population hardly knows anything about AUDA-NEPAD. Civil society argues that it was imposed by senior officials to entrench an elite top - down approach. The policy document of AUDA-NEPAD became available via the internet in which myriad of Africans, especially rural masses do not have access. The limited knowledge of AUDA-NEPAD within the civil society is problematic because its good intents are unknown. Even if it delivers reasonable results it becomes difficult for civil society to interrogate and evaluate its outcomes because its terms of reference are unknown. In this regard, how can an individual evaluate a process which he/she does not understand? This results in a

situation of “us” civil society and “them” African leadership in which the former will totally reject NEPAD. Cited in Ignatius (2013:36).

For Kalagbor (2004:193) very often, well intended and properly articulated government and regional development policies, plans and programmes fail because of a number of reasons. In Africa, the goals and objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action could not be fully realized due to a number of internal and external factors, which may not be entirely new to the challenge of African development, which AUDA-NEPAD seeks to address. Consequently, efforts must be made to resolutely address the following challenges, if Africa must be put on a sound path of Sustainable growth and development through the instrumentality of AUDA-NEPAD; Resource inputs, implementation capacity, corruption, political instability and poor leadership, broad coverage of issues, domestication of AUDA-NEPAD, internal armed conflicts and wars, Ex-colonial ties, international capitalist conspiracy.

In addition, for the purpose of this research, findings revealed that AUDA-NEPAD in Nigeria and in relation to Rivers and Bayelsa state since its existence had faces so many challenges ranging from the following:

- Problem of office accommodation- Since inception Nigeria AUDA-NEPAD offices in the various states have faced the issue of befitting office accommodation in carrying out its activities and programmes. This challenge has greatly affect its smooth running and operations across the states of AUDA-NEPAD-Nigeria
- Inability to Access International Fund among AUDA-NEPAD States- One challenge AUDA-NEPAD Nigeria faces is the inability of their various state offices to access international development funds to run its activities and programmes and this actually affect it existence in implementing the AUDA-NEPAD objectives across the states.
- Political Instability- AUDA-NEPAD-Nigeria also faces the problem of political instability in implementing it programmes, activities in the country. The change of political offices usually retard the progress of AUDA-NEPAD programmes.
- Funding problem- Another problem facing NEPAD Nigeria is the issue of funding because the overall goal of effectiveness is the issue of proper funding. NEPAD Nigeria has serious problem of funding its activities and programmes.

- Implementation problem of APRM – This greatly affect the total achievement of the AUDA-NEPAD programmes in Nigeria and its states projects. Lack of implementation of NEPAD APRM to a large extend affect the activities and implementation of NEPAD objectives across state.
- Diversion of Funds by NEPAD -Nigeria States- Nigeria AUDA-NEPAD states have been facing the problem of diversion of Funds among states and this aspect had greatly affect the proper use of funds in the effective operation of AUDA-NEPAD across Nigerian states .
- Problem of passing the enabling law to make AUDA-NEPAD-Nigeria Commission Bill effective- Another challenge that affects AUDA-NEPAD-Nigeria is the problem of passing the enabling law to strengthen its operational base across the various AUDA-NEPAD states in Nigeria. AUDA-NEPAD-Nigeria lack the ability to usher in effective governance because of its inability to have it proposed commission for its functioning and operation across the Nigerian states. This challenge made AUDA-NEPAD-Nigeria not to be effective and efficient in dealing with its stated objectives across the country. At present the Nigeria AUDA-NEPAD Commission bill is at third reading in the Nigerian senate
- Problem of implementing AUDA-NEPAD E-Schools project across states – AUDA- NEPAD-Nigeria in relation to the NEPAD States have find it very difficult to provide the proposed E-schools project across states in Nigeria and this has greatly affected it campaign on E-schooling in Nigerian states
- Lack of permanent staff- Another challenge that affect the effective and efficient service delivery system is the issue of having non-permanent staff in AUDA-NEPAD Nigerian offices. That is, many of NEPAD-Nigerian offices staff are usually taken or employed through secondment, temporary appointment especially in Rivers and Bayelsa AUDA-NEPAD office and this has retarded high productivity in achieving the AUDA-NEPAD real objectives.

Kalama (2019) AUDA-NEPAD Bayelsa and Rivers since inception in 2008 has faced numerous challenges in achieving it real stated objectives and these problems are: irregular running cost from the state government, frequent deduction of subventions, accusations among staff, temporary

appointment and secondment of AUDA-NEPAD staff instead of full time employment , inability to access AUDA-NEPAD intervention funds, favouritism and nepotism, bribery allegation, improper definition of AUDA-NEPAD state head functions and roles, lack of staff office, lack of proper funding, improper handling ,control of AUDA-NEPAD Local Government offices .

Impact of AUDA – NEPAD in Nigeria

From the study, it is clear that AUDA-NEPAD was formed by African leaders as a blue print for even development. Based on this, African leaders have accepted and took a joint responsibilities to achieve the following goals: good political, economic and cooperate governance; the promotion and protection of democracy and human rights through the development of clear standards of accountability, transparency and participative governance; restoration and maintenance of macro-economic stability; the rebuilding of the capacity of African states to set and enforce legal framework and maintain law and order. However, since exception AUDA-NEPAD-Nigeria has helped to provide training and empowerment programmes across some states in Nigeria including River and Bayelsa States respectively. AUDA-NEPAD represents a national call for Africa and the international community towards sustainable development.AUDA- NEPAD is a home grown solution to overcome the problem of marginalization and foster the path for development and this assertion was in tandem with the position of Aredo, (2003), Obi,Ozor and Nwokoye (2008), Nwankwo, Ogbaji and Oguegbunam (2014), Kalagbor (2014), Hope (2002) and Bostan (2011).

It was also revealed in the research that AUDA-NEPAD since inception in Rivers and Bayelsa states had benefited from some training, empowerment programmes like ICT training, HIV/IADS awareness training, Youth talent show, accessed some interventional funds etc. , AUDA-NEPAD has provided Rivers and Bayelsa states farmers with some international grants in supporting farmers in their respective states. AUDA-NEPAD Rivers and Bayelsa had identified some national and international partners to provide even development across the local government areas.

The study from the literature reviewed also observed that AUDA-NEPAD since existence faces so many problems/challenges that affect it smooth operations especially in Rivers and Bayelsa state and among these are: Inability of NEPAD Rivers, Bayelsa to open functional offices across every local government area to carry out successful training and empowerment programmes , lack

of funds and commitment towards AUDA-NEPAD programmes and activities in Rivers and Bayelsa, the problem of leadership and commitment towards AUDA-NEPAD goals, corruption, political will, political instability, appointment of secondment staff as temporary instead of permanent staff, problem of implementing AUDA-NEPAD E-Schools project across Rivers and Bayelsa state, problem of full implementation of the APRM, inability to pass AUDA-NEPAD – Nigeria commission bill, problem of having permanent functional head offices across Rivers and Bayelsa state, low level of awareness of AUDA-NEPAD programmes etc. And these were in line with the assertion of Stuuman (2004), Kalagbor (2004), Obi, Ozor and Nwokoye (2008), Ignatius (2013), Kalama (2019) respectively.

Conclusions

The New Partnership for Africa's Development is a blue print for development in Africa. It is a comprehensive integrated development plan that addresses key social, economic and political priorities in a coherent and balanced manner. It was conceived and established with the perceived interest of sustainable growth and development by the African leaders.

AUDA-NEPAD- Nigeria also key into the African Peer Review Mechanism which was formally accepted by member states of the African Union as means for an African self-monitoring and evaluation mechanism. The APRM main aim is to usher in the adoption of the policies, high standards and practices that will greatly lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated sub-regional and continental economic integration through sharing of experiences and best practices and which is very important to the sustainability of AUDA-NEPAD.

The study revealed that NEPAD has not fully achieved its main targets in Nigeria and in relation to Rivers and Bayelsa state which is to solve the country's developmental needs, AUDA-NEPAD- Nigeria lacks enabling law to deliver its programmes across its states and AUDA-AUDA-NEPAD also suffers from inadequate funding from the federal and international donors and lack of political will towards AUDA-NEPAD programmes and activities in Nigeria.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made in order to position AUDA-NEPAD-Nigeria as a blue-print for development;

- Rivers and Bayelsa state government should as a matter of urgency carry out a comprehensive review of their AUDA-NEPAD state intervention, subventions packages given as running cost
- There should be proper funding of all AUDA-NEPAD-Nigeria programmes and activities across the existing states
- AUDA-NEPAD-Nigeria should partner with the various states to provide them with a better land space to mount a befitting secretariats
- Government should embark on prompt and sustained the implementation of AUDA-NEPAD priorities, programmes and policies,
- The AUDA-NEPAD- Nigeria should endeavour to execute developmental goals under the NEPAD programmes
- AUDA-NEPAD-Nigeria should pass and assent to the AUDA-NEPAD-Nigeria commission bill which will empower AUDA-NEPAD-Nigeria to deliver on its set objectives across the Nigerian states
- Political instability should not be allowed to implement government programmes, because whichever government that emerges can effectively liaise with the respective AUDA-NEPAD states and identify its programmes and implement them accordingly
- There should be political will and commitment to carry out AUDA-NEPAD activities and programmes across Rivers and Bayelsa states.
- Government should provide and strengthen an effective awareness mechanism on the role of NEPAD in Nigeria and in relation to Rivers and Bayelsa AUDA-NEPAD

- There should be immediate implementation of AUDA-NEPAD E-Schools project across the AUDA-NEPAD States in Nigeria.
- There should be full implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism framework earlier adopted for even development.
- Permanent staff should be source and recruited from the public in order to achieve high productivity as regards to achieve AUDA-NEPAD core mandates across Rivers and Bayelsa states

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