

# Nigerian's Integration in the Globalizing World: Challenges to National Development

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## Abstract

Factually, globalization is a contemporary trend which appears to have been accepted internationally. Its implicit challenges are what the developing nations like Nigeria have not come to appreciate in detail. As such, for Nigeria, the rationale behind her unconscious and swift integration in the globalizing world still call for questioning and or further explanation. Countries of the world differ in so many ways such as economic prosperity, political stability, security network, citizens welfare, international political participation, military might and armament, etc. With all these in view, globalization may not be advantageous to the developing countries as perceived. So, if we cursorily dive into it without considering our economic and political position in the international arena by upholding the notion that the superpowers and major powers are now outdated because of the complex global economic, and socio-cultural interdependencies, we are simply perpetuating our 'import-based' economy; because, even the emergent States like China, and Japan are not comparable to Nigeria. This paper therefore argues that Nigeria should first, solidify and consolidate our national structure by making a frantic effort to stabilize our economy, deepen our democratic processes, solidify our military strength, fight poverty and hunger through employment generation, expand and improve our industrial sector and stabilize the nascent improvement in the health sector so that, we can have a stronger back-borne which will systematically balance our scale in the globalizing world.

**Keywords:** contemporary, development, globalization, integration

## 1. Introduction

The complex, uncertain, uncharted waters of the twenty-first century have plunged us into a world of globalization, terrorism, economic uncertainty, famine, health epidemics, social transformation, corporate compromises, moral and ethical experimentation, religious conflicts, and cultural clashes. The conditions demand the highest quality of leadership that our generation can produce. Yet I have sat in the hall of government and observed the struggles of today's leaders. I have sat around the table chatting with presidents of countries, and I have heard them express their lack of ability to deal with their nations' challenges. I have talked with cabinet ministers of government around the world, and they openly ask for help, assistance, and advice. Many leaders just don't know how to lead any longer. Where are the true leaders? (Munroe, 2005).

Being a member of the international community makes it obvious that Nigeria may not easily run away from globalization and international politics. Whether it is favourable to us or not does not really matter to the rest of the world; because in the international arena, every country is pursuing what will serve their national interest. In other words, they are targeting what will make them continue to be ahead of others and perpetuate their influence on them. Projections like globalization is a new strategy aimed at bringing the world activities under the control of the super and major powers. They do this by influencing others through their military, political, economic and technological powers to respect their wishes; thereby making frantic effort to dictate the world tempo. With this observation, it is important for Nigeria to prepare grounds so well as to have a strong backbone to engage in the 'international socioeconomic and political game' as covertly imbedded in globalization.

This could be achieved by ensuring that all the necessary structures required to build a strong and united one Nigeria are in place and in functional state. Those areas from which the industrialized nations are playing their game; like in the manufacturing and technological sectors which have grown tremendously in the past three decades as a result of increasing demand of products from the developing countries of the world like Nigeria, need to be developed and expanded. As the benefits and opportunities that emanate from globalization is not evenly distributed among the globalizing countries. This makes some to benefit more than others. It therefore becomes imperative that Nigeria as a country must be put on the right part to fast-track national development so that foreign influence will be reduced. This may not happen in a jiffy but once it is achieved, globalization will no longer be detrimental to our economic progress and our international relations will no more be characterized by a cap-in-hand approach.

## 2. Statement of the Problem

It is no exaggeration saying that globalization has shattered the administrative, socio-economic and political focus of many countries of the world. Vision and mission are no longer considered in the choice of our leaders. The assumption is that "after all he will be surrounded by experts who will make up his cabinet". So, the struggle for power and how to maintain it took over the centre stage. Activities that promote economic progress were either diluted or undermined on the premise that we are in a global world where what you do not have can be gotten from where it is in abundance without minding the political and economic implications of that importation proposal to your country.

## 3. Theoretical Background

Ndem (2005:14), defined theory as: "a set of interrelated constructs (concepts), definitions, and propositions that presents a systematic view of phenomena by specifying relations among variables, with the purpose of explaining and predicting the phenomena". Theory allows us to explain what we see and to figure out how to bring about change. It is a tool that enables us to identify a problem and to plan a means for altering the situation especially when it is undesirable. Consequently, two theoretical propositions were adopted as the support base for the argument put forward in this paper. The first was from the economic perspective, while the second was from the sociopolitical perspective.

### 3.1 Dependency Theory:

Core postulations of this theory shows that the relationship between the developing and developed countries marred the development of the developing countries because of their dependence on the developed world. The dependency theory asserts that the developing countries are still as they are because most of the things they produce are raw material and are drained off by the developed countries through the multi-nationals. The profit they make out it is not enough for reinvestment and therefore cannot engender development. Wealthy nations have exploited great quantities of materials from poor countries, such as minerals and metals which they have used to make automobiles, jewelry, and weapons. They supply these goods to the developing countries through the Multinational and Transnational Corporations (MNCs and TNCs) at a self-determined price, quality and quantity. Large amounts of Certain agricultural products that can only be grown in the hot climates of the developing countries, like coffee, tea, sugar, cocoa and many others have been exported to the developed world for the manufacturing of finished products which they also supply to the developing countries under the same condition they dictate.

In our day, developing countries are engulfed by large debts which thwarts development programmes and projects. It is on record that, African countries have paid back \$550 billion of their debt but they still owe \$295 billion. Dependency theorists believe large economic aid is not a sure way to poverty reduction, instead debt cancelation either partially or in full would be more effective. This theory propose that developing country should cut off their ties with the developed world so as to retain their surplus production and follow economically independent and socialistic ideas in order to further develop their economies by reinvesting their surpluses.

### 3.2 Trans-formationalism:

This theory was propounded by David Held and his colleagues. Their postulations are that globalization created a common social space for interconnectedness where political, economic and cultural matters across the world were discussed, analyzed and shared. The fact that there exist a variety of definitions of globalization spurred Held, et al (1999), to develop an analytical framework consisting of three typologies of theories of globalization. They are:

- a. **The hyper-globalist:** The proponents of this theory argue that modern globalization created a new era where people from all over the world are subjected to the disciplines of the global marketplace with the multi-national enterprises and intergovernmental organisations as the key actor.
- b. **Sceptic:** Here, the argument is that globalization is a fairy-tale which aims at masking the realities of the international system. Globalization tends to make more vivid the polarization of the globe into three major regional blocs thereby making the national governments of some, more powerful than others. Giddens (1990) argue that globalisation occurs as "states and societies across the globe are experiencing a process of profound change as they try to adapt to a more interconnected but highly uncertain world". To him, globalization is the intensification of worldwide social relations which link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring many miles away and vice versa.
- c. **Transformationalist:** Here, they presented a more complicated typology of globalization based on the spread, depth, speed, and impacts on infrastructure, institutions, hierarchical structures and the unevenness of development. Implicit in their postulation is that globalization has more political leaning and as such they defined it as "the "shifting reach of political power, authority and forms of rule" based

on new organisational interests which are “transnational” and “multi-layered. It is a new system where each of these actors as identified in the hyper-globalist exercises their political power, authority and forms of rule.

#### 4. Conceptual and Theoretical Analysis

The conceptual understanding of the phenomenon -“globalization” has been attempted by different people at varying times, but were unable to come up with a definition that could be humbly accepted by all, irrespective of the categorical demarcations of the world. Okoye (2004) was of the view that globalization is a phenomenon propelled by recent developments in science and technology. He further said that even though globalization is now a cliché in general discourse, few can be said to understand its real import...some view it as a process that is beneficial - a key to future world economic development that is also inevitable and irreversible. Others regard it with hostility, even fear, believing that it increases inequality within and between nations, threaten employment and living standards and thwart social progress.

Nura (2003) pointed out that the dictionary meaning of globalizations seems too neutral, indeed too innocent as it falls short of conveying the overtones of the term and real significance of the concept as widely understood in today’s world. To him, the effects of globalization to Nigeria’s economic and political future cannot be grasped rightly unless a comprehensive approval to the concept witnessed worldwide was introduced. This may be uneasy to attain because every country is bent on giving a perceptual understanding to the concept, based on give and take.

Rather than to define, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations through the office of the Economic and Social Council summarily posited that globalization has brought benefits and opportunities for many people in many parts of the world. However, many others have been excluded from its positive impacts. Extreme poverty remains a daily reality for more than one billion people who subsist on less than \$1 a day. More than 800 million people have too little to eat to meet their daily energy needs. Inequality between countries and within countries has also increased and global environment risks have increasingly become a matter of global concern. The effort being made here is to pin-down the impact of globalization. And if this is the true situation, what can we say that globalization has actually come to do?

However, Modern globalization therefore, could be seen as an emergent international politics which seeks to recoup and redress the regrets of the swift decolonization of the developing world. It is a consciously calculated effort of the industrialized nations to further deepen their dominance on the developing and emergent economies through the instrumentality of military, economic, political, communication and technological innovations thereby making them to depend largely on the developed nations to dictate the speed of their national development

#### 5. Modern Globalization in Brief

Historically, modern globalization could be said to have projected from the 19<sup>th</sup> century surroundings. This period witnessed a significant increase in global trade and capital investment in foreign countries. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there was high trading in merchant production as a result of increased demand of finished products from the developed world thereby leading to growth in the amount of goods produced for merchandise trade. Trade in services and the establishment of multinationals also experienced boom. The 21<sup>st</sup> century brought about the integration of many countries through technologies, telecomm and commercial activities and this was facilitated by international politics, low cost of transportation and the decrease in real and perceived inhibitions to easy flow of trade, international terrorism, military assistance to quell crises and communications through internet facilities and the signing of such agreement like:

- i. The African Central Banks (ACB)
- ii. The African Monetary Fund
- iii. The African Investment Bank
- iv. North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
- v. General Agreement on Trade and Tariff (GATT) and many others.

European Union and African Union made bolder steps to reduce, if not eliminate unnecessary tariffs between Member States. More so, there was tremendous improvement in information, communication and technology (ICT), which is chiefly responsible for the ‘Global-Village’ concept. Goods can now be traded online; oral and written communication around the globe became a matter of minutes because of the introduction of the GSM and internet facilities. The speed at which the world was integrating was stepped up unconsciously, even though it was not evenly favourable. Globalization can be argued to be synonymous with modern imperialism if the definition of the latter according to Mahajan (1988: 865) can be taken to be true. In his words, "modern imperialism is indirect and relies more on diplomacy and international agreement than on sword. A modern imperialist state is more interested in control of the commerce, industry, rail roads, ports and strategic bases than physical control of a colony. It takes the form of lease-holds, protectorates and semi-protectorates, sphere of

influence, condominium, financial control, tariff control, extra-territoriality, informal control, intervention, military alliance, mandates and trusteeship system". The basis for the argument above is that these bullets of modern imperialism are the salient agents of globalization.

## 6. The Nigerian Economy: An Overview

In as much as we cannot out-rightly condemn globalization, because we know that as it has brought negative effects to our nation, it has as well brought some positive impacts but we view it that its negative influence is more than its positive impacts in Nigeria and perhaps too many other developing economies. It has affected virtually all aspects of our national life including our individual and collective traditional practices, our culture with respect to food, clothing, language and religion, our ethical standard – that is, our norms and values; arts and craft, all have been globalized. Some have undergone the swift processes of modification while others are retarding. We are gradually changing our cultural practices into what can better be described as modernization. We are fast losing grip of our identities. Everything that has to do with culture and tradition are now seen as being archaic, primitive and diabolic. Even our traditional medicine and other non fetish means of curing ailment are no longer receiving the deserved encouragement. What we prefer now is the way it is produced in the western world. And whoever adopts this kind of life style is seen as “a modern man”. Globalization is part of the cause of our economic growth retardation, increase in unemployment rate and growth of militarism. Low level of national development is tantamount to low level of income and investment. In paper, the economy has experienced robust growth from 2011 but we know, in reality, this level of development does not match what is on paper. Between 2015 and 2016, Nigeria witnessed the worst economic crises, such that in 2017, it was nationally acknowledged that the country has gone into economic recession. Greater percentage of the Nigerian population still lives in poverty with life expectancy at 52 for male and 53 for female. Parimoo (2014), stated that:

Nigeria’s recalculated economy, according to the latest report dated April 2014, as published by US Today – A Gannet Company, is worth \$510 billion, by far the biggest in Africa, using long overdue revised data that gives the West African Nation continental bragging right but does little for the 70% of its citizens living in poverty (p.7).

One may actually begin to wonder how globalization is responsible in part, for our low level of development. Development is difficult to attain without a strong economic base through a progressive productive sector, and continuity in government, sound development programmes, policies and projects. It is more difficult to attain without freedom and peace to guarantee the survival of the state, individuals and institutions. Above all, development requires that there should be investment and investment opportunities. A situation where investment is grossly discouraged, freedom of movement is being restricted, administrative progress is being punctured; all through prolonged militarism and terrorism which gets its material support from foreign supplies of military hardware, then it will be no surprise that the economy will grow only on paper because more attention will be paid to stabilizing the country and maintaining a favourable image in international politics rather than finding lasting solution to the myriad of issues setting us backwards.

Former President Good Jonathan in an address on the Democracy Day, May 29, 2012 admitted that “terrorism, a new menace, totally alien to our way of life and culture has reared its head and is posing a serious challenge...” The address further reads in part thus ...As a President; it is my solemn duty to defend the constitution of this country. That includes the obligation to protect life and property. We are doing everything possible to check the menace of terrorism. In this regard, we are determined to review some of the existing laws, to further strengthen the national counter-terrorism strategy. Coordinated joint action among our security agencies has now assumed greater importance. We have developed new security architecture to strengthen the security environment. Today progress has been made. The country’s credit rating is positive, in contrast with many nations being downgraded. In 2011, our economy grew by 7.45%. As at mid May 2012, our foreign exchange reserve has risen in 21months. We have stabilized and improved our fiscal regime. We brought the fiscal deficit down to 2.85% of GDP from 2.9% in 2011. We reduced recurrent expenditure from 7.4% to 7.1% and reduced domestic borrowing from ₦852 billion in 2011 to ₦744 billion in 2012. We cut out over ₦100 billion of non-essential expenditure and increased our internally generated revenue from ₦200 to ₦467 billion. For the first time in over a decade, we now have a draft Trade Policy which provides a multi-dimensional framework to boost our trade regime and facilitate the inflow of investment. We have generated over N6.6 Trillion worth of investment commitments. The total value of our trade is also much higher than the value estimated the previous year due to deliberate government policies. To facilitate the base of doing business in Nigeria, we have a policy in place to make visa procurement easier for foreign investors, with safeguards to prevent abuse”.

A look at a more vivid summary, presents that Nigerian economy is not competing very favourably with many of the other economies of the world that we are together in the globalizing world. Though Nigeria is rich in oil but the economy has been hobbled by insurgency, corruption, militancy, political instability,

inadequate infrastructure, and poor macroeconomic management. Below is a chart of trend of the global ranking of the Nigerian economy, in comparison with other countries of the world, derived from the historical list of countries by GDP (PPP).

**Table 6.1: Nigeria's ranking by GDP (PPP)**

Year	Gross domestic product, (PPP, in billions)	US dollar exchange	Inflation index (2000=100)	Per capita income (as % of USA)	Year	GDP (PPP) Ranking
1980	*58	1 Naira	1.30	7%	2005	52
1985	*82	3 Naira	3.20	5%	2006	47
1990	*118	9 Naira	8.10	2.5%	2007	38
1995	*155	50 Naira	56	3%	2008	37
2000	170	100 Naira	100	3.5%	2009	34
2005	291	130 Naira	207	4%	2010	31
2010	392	150 Naira	108	5%	2011	31
2012	451	158 Naira	121	7%	2012	30
2014	972	180 Naira	(no data)	11%	2013	23
					2014	20

Source: Adapted from; Economy of Nigeria. Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

In the first quarter of 2017, the Dollar was sold for nothing less than ₦500. Since then, the best it has done was to fluctuate between ₦300 and ₦500. Whatever is the case, it is still high for an emergent economy like Nigeria. The country's deteriorating economy did not just start now, and as such, the economy runs thus:

**Table 6.2: Summary of Nigerian economic outlook (2010 – 2012)**

Indicators	2012 est	2011 est	2010 est	Country comparison to the world
GDP-Purchasing Power Parity	\$444.3 bn	\$416.9 bn	\$388.3 bn	31
GDP-real Growth Rate	6.6%	7.4%	8%	34
GDP- Per Capita	\$2,700	\$2,600	\$2,500	179
Gross National Saving	15.9% of GDP (2012 est)	15.4% of GDP (2012 est)	17.9% of GDP	98
GDP (official exchange rate)	\$266.6bn			
Exchange Rates per dollar	156.81	154.74	150.3	
Stock of Direct foreign Investment-at home	\$76.75bn	\$69.25bn		44
Stock of Direct foreign Investment-abroad	\$7.444bn	\$5.865		61
Reserve of foreign exchange and gold	\$46.41bn	35.21bn		42
Debt-external	\$13.4bn	\$13.11bn		91
Exports	\$95.68bn	96.37bn		40
Current account balance	\$20.35bn	12.55bn		18
Inflation rate (consumer prices)	12.2%	10.8%		207
Public debt	17.9% of GDP(2012 est)	17.1% of GDP (2011 est)		
Unemployment rate	23.9%	4.9%		170
Population below poverty line			70%	
Labour force	51.53m			13

Note: Data are in 2012 US dollars. Source: Adapted from a Re-publication of the 2014 World Fact Book of the United States Central Intelligence Agency.

Further to the table above, in 2012, the Nigerian labour force was 51.53m while in country comparison to the world, Nigeria ranked 13. Export commodities were: petroleum and petroleum products 95%, then cocoa, rubber. The export partners are: United States 16.8%, India 11.5%, Netherland 8.6%, Spain 7.8%, Brazil 7.6%, United Kingdom 5.1%, Germany 4.9%, Japan 4.1%, France 4.1. Import commodities included: machinery, chemical, transport equipment, manufactured goods, food and live stock and the partners are: China 18.3%, United States 10.1%, India 5.5% (2012)

Factually, Nigeria is not one of the African countries recording remarkable improvement in its Human Development Index. This is contained in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 2013 report for Nigeria. The report revealed that Nigeria belong to the Low Human Development Category with 0.471 as the HDI value for 2012 and ranked 153 out of 187 countries and territories. The number of people living on less

than \$1.25 a day is put at 1.2 billion while 1.5 billion lives in multi-dimensional poverty.

### 7. Challenges of Globalization to National Development

The fact that globalization has not been given a centrally defined and generally accepted definition is in addition, a challenge of some sort. Countries of the world and organizations define it according to their perceptual understanding and in line with the conditions surrounding their political ideology, orientation, relationships and interactions with the rest of the world. The highly industrialized nations try to present globalization in such a way that the whole world will see it as a phenomenon that has the capacity to induce and sustain equitable economic, political and technological growth among countries of the world which will make the less developed nations to swiftly grasp the opportunities to hasten their advancement.

On the other hand, globalization is seen as a novel strategy to exploit the developing nations and slow down the pace of their development by supplying and dictating the prices of international commodities perceive to be cheap; which ordinarily is the major source of their foreign earnings thereby stylishly regulating the in-flow of foreign capital into the developing countries; and making them to depend more on them for their economic growth, military assistance, quality health services, standard education and political development. This is the case with Nigeria. World Development indicators 2007 showed that the developing-country share of the global economy could rise from 23 per cent of world GDP today to 31 per cent in 2030, and developing-country's average income could rise from 16 to 24 per cent of those of high income countries. But the income gap between the developing and high income economies will remain substantial, and the absolute difference in per capital income will continue to widen.

The above statement has a perceptual support from the words of Roodney (2009 ed) that:

...when two societies of different sorts come into prolonged and effective contact, the rate and character of change taking place in both is seriously affected to the extent that entirely new patterns are created. Two general rules can be observed to apply in such cases. Firstly, the weaker of the two societies (i.e. the one with less economic capacity) is bound to be adversely affected and the bigger the gap between the two societies concerned the more detrimental are the consequences (p 12).

With this view at hand, one question becomes inevitable; **Who is benefiting from globalization?** This fundamental question is a serious threat to the internationalism because of imperialism. Internationalism on the one hand "is hindered by the ideological diversity among the nations of the world. Ideological bi-polarization of the world has divided the entire world into irreconcilable parts. Totalitarian and militant ideologies have proclaimed the inevitability of war and leave no scope for co-existence" (Mahajan, 1988:855-856). To the question above, many will see whatever answer given to it as 'poli-diplomatic'. This construct is a combination of two political concept: Politics and Diplomacy. It is used in this context to imply a deliberate attempt by a diplomat to super-impose his country's international political and economic interest on the other participating nations by performing acts that can best be described as politically incorrect when judged by international standard. Beaudet (2009), in an attempt says:

when we look at the details, however, the picture is more complex. Sub-Saharan Africa, for example, has a high ratio of exports to GDP (30 per cent) yet remains poor because its products are cheap. By contrast, rich and powerful countries concentrate their productive capacities and exports on high-value products. At the same time, only 12 developing countries are really participating in this expansion of trade, with one or two (such as China) taking most of the FDI flows. For the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD 2006), the growth of export in poor countries does not necessarily lead to poverty reduction. Indeed, the incidence of poverty did not decline during the 1990s. And in the meantime, the gap in income between rich countries and poor countries has widened considerably (107).

Oxfam International (2000) as cited in Beaudet brought to limelight the contrasting experiences of the Latin America and the Eastern Asia which illustrates that the fact that globalization-induced growth and poverty can coexist. Even when the market expands, 'poor people are often excluded from opportunities by a lack of productive assets, weak infrastructure, poor education and ill health. Nonetheless, imperialism on the other hand "has assumed many forms even in modern times. Today, colonization is not as important a factor as the economic and political control of the backward regions of the world. Modern empires are largely for economic and trade purposes. Formerly it used to be said: 'Trade follows flag' or 'Flag follows the trade'. Some empires came into existence by mere accident and some were the outcome of deliberate planning. Some regard imperialism as a foster child of aggressive nationalism..." (Mahajan, 1988: 859)

In Nigeria today, as a result of globalization, we now see locally made goods and services as not fit for our use. This is because we are in a global village where we can easily order and get foreign goods at a perceived cheaper rate. We do not mind what the economic deficit it brings to our economy is. Nigeria now spends so much money on foreign goods and services thereby not encouraging our local industries to continue in their line

of business. According to Udeozo (2014), the Executive Secretary of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC), Dr Latif Busari, confirmed that “Nigeria spent \$620 million on the importation of sugar in 2013 and that we are spending on the average, about 500 million Dollars annually on importation of raw sugar”. Onwueme (2014) quoted a recent report of the Federal Government saying that “Nigeria spends ₦750 billion annually on the importation of pencil”. Ben Bruce, the Chairman of Sliver Bird Group lambasted the Federal Government for spending \$8 billion yearly on importation of fuel. He further stated that a lot of our problems are self inflicting; the expensive life style and popping of Champaign which is responsible for the laziness of some people in government must come to an end. We must go back to the era of creativity!

In 2010 alone, the cost of food importation was enough to turn around the economy of this nation if wisely invested in Nigeria. That was why Elebeke (2016) lamented that massive importation of food, especially, rice, wheat, sugar and fish, has continued to bleed the nation’s economy, with the four items accounting for a whopping N1 trillion loss to the nation annually. See below details of cost implication of the importation of rice, wheat, sugar and fish

Rice	N365 billion
Wheat	635 billion
Sugar	217 billion
Fish	97 billion

(Source: adapted from Osagie, C. (2011).

The former Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Akinwunmi Adesina, disclosed this at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Ibadan, Oyo State when he was addressing stakeholders on Cassava Value Chain Development in Nigeria. He said that “Nigeria is one of the largest food importer and the largest importer of rice in the world - spending so much money importing food to meet its people’s food needs when it possesses massive potentials to produce food commodities”. The Minister noted that low productivity of domestic production system increases price of non-tradable food crops together, leading to rise in food price inflation. “With poor urban and rural household spending 70 to 80 per cent of their income on food, life is unbearable for many”. Fiscally, economically, and politically, this is no justification for this situation and therefore it neither acceptable, sustainable nor advisable. By 2050, Nigerian will be importing over 36 million metric tons of rice at an average cost of ₦234 trillion.

Obinna (2016), stated that the Federal Government in a town hall meeting with the Newspapers Proprietor’s Association of Nigeria (NPAN), on May 5, 2016 the Minister of Agriculture, Chief Audu Ogbeh, said the government has put machinery in motion to ensure that the N22billion spent on importation of food into the country is saved. According to him, the government is working towards attaining self-sufficiency in food production in the next two years, revealing that huge successes are being recorded in the cultivation of rice, wheat, beans, soya beans and other staple food. Chief Ogbeh said, at the meeting, which also had in attendance, Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed; Minister of Finance, Mrs. Kemi Adeosun and Minister of Environment, Mrs. Amina Mohammed, that it was painful that Nigeria loses N22 billion yearly to the importation of rice, beans, wheat, egg, fish, meat, vegetable, milk, tomato paste and fresh tomatoes, which could be easily grown in the country. “Agriculture is the focus of diversification. Now N22 billion is spent on food importation yearly. Importation has brought Nigeria to zero. We lose \$5 million daily in the importation of rice. We spend N600 million yearly to import fish. The world is at war. Economic warfare is ruthless. We have been the victims. Now we are broke.” The minister said the challenges being faced include resistance from people and countries who do not want Nigeria to grow in agriculture as well as the problem of funding, while expressing optimism that these would be overcome.

The things that connote globalization may not easily be recalled in a jiffy because of their different diplomatic and political nomenclatures. All the things that happen between one country and the other, international institutions and multi-nationals could all be termed globalization. Even access to international credit and foreign Direct Investment (FDI) are also part of it. Chief Richard Akinjide, Justice Minister of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Republic as cited in Cheeka (2005) said “there is no developing country in the world that has accepted the World Bank policies and survived. Nigerian government is following the blueprint of the World Bank and IMF. As long as we are doing that, Nigeria’s economy will never, never make progress. It will be growing from poverty to poverty...” (*Saturday Punch*, March 13, 2004). A London based member of the World Development Movement (WDM) supported this by saying that “those countries that have developed most successfully have often been those that have ignored the bank and fund and pursued their own path to development.

One may not believe the negative effects of multinational companies in Africa and that was why Duodu (2009) observed that “if anyone had the time to count the number of times African countries have been accused of being corrupt in American and European media, he or she would come up with an answer that runs into billions. Of course, there is no doubt at all that the charge is true - there is corruption in Africa, and sometimes on a monumental scale! But what is not quite right is that the charges is always leveled at Africans, but never at the Western companies who corrupt them.

Virtually in all sectors of the Nigerian economy, we depend on foreign assistance to continue to exist instead of making bolder steps to develop; so that we can continually export more than we import. Nigeria imports almost everything, including the least commodity like toot-pick, candle, cotton bud, pencil etc. Onuoha (2013), noted that “it is a truism that any individual who has had a formal education must have, at one time or the other, used pencils. China is currently the leading exporter of pencil to Nigeria, followed by Britain and Germany. It is estimated that for children of school age alone, Nigeria spends between 54.5 million and 91 million USD annually to import pencil from China alone”.

The recent improvement witnessed in the health sector is a commendable feat. In December 2014, about 250 medical personnel including Doctors, Nurses and Pharmacists left Nigeria to other parts of Africa where the Ebola Virus Dieses is still widespread and threatens to eradicate human existence. If this level of success recorded in this sector could be sustained and extended to other sectors, then globalization will no more bring fear to us.

The level of development, no matter how we pretend about it has dropped from the expected height. This is due to incessant terrorist attacks particularly at the northern part of the country, high level of political bickering and inconsistency in developmental policies and programmes. Greater concentration is now on oil because there is readily available buyer in the international market. The countries we supply oil has more oil reserve than Nigerian – the producer, yet we say we are globalizing. All other sectors including agriculture have not been given the deserved attention by the leadership so that developmental processes will be diversified. Development according to Njoku (2005) refers to:

A multi-dimensional process involving major changes in social structure, popular attitude and national institutions, as well as the acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality and the eradication of poverty. Development, in its essence, must represent the gamut of change by which an entire social system turned to the diverse basic needs and desires of individuals and social groups within that system, moves away from a condition of life widely perceived as un satisfactory towards a situation or condition of life regarded as materially and spiritually better (p.13)

If this definition could be upheld, it simply means that Nigeria still have a lot to do which necessarily requires that the leadership of the country should look deep down into the composition of the entity – Nigeria, to be able to identify the areas that are seriously calling for attention rather than concentrating on the global politics which does not fetch us enough economic and political benefits that could be channeled towards our national development.

More so, globally recognized risks are gradually increasing, World Economic Forum Report – Global Risks 2014, (9<sup>th</sup> edition) according to Parimoo (2014), states that:

...our lives are changing at an unprecedented pace. Transformational shift in our economy, environmental, geopolitical, societal and technological systems offer unparalleled opportunities but the interconnections among them also imply enhanced systemic risks. Stakeholders from across business, government and civil society face an evolving imperative in understanding and managing emerging global risks which by definition, respect no national boundaries.

The report went further to list economic, environmental, geopolitical, societal and technological risks as the emergent risks facing human society today. According to the report, the technological category covers major risks related to the growing centrality of information and communication technologies to individuals, businesses and governments. This includes cyber attacks, infrastructure disruption and data loss. There is no point arguing that these are not the aftermath of globalization. Other areas through which globalization has brought unprecedented bottle-neck in our progressive march include: decrease in the value of our currency, foreign sponsorship of terrorism, human right abuse, child trafficking, environmental and global warming, food and water crises, brain drain, and reduction of labour force. In this regard, the menace posed by the insurgents of the ‘Boko Haram’ is now unbearable. People die in their thousands regularly, yet we expect to attract foreign investors. As if is only Boko Haram that we are suffering in Nigeria, what about armed robbery, kidnapping, militancy and ritual killing? All these pose serious challenges to our national progress and require that we put them aright before we can stand on a strong footing to play international politics.

The Economic and Social Council of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs submitted that promoting a coherent approach to policy making through greater coherence and co-ordination is essential to ensuring that the benefits of globalization are expanded and spread more and that its potentially negative effects are diminished. The globalization of production, finance, and information, among others, has not been matched by a corresponding reshaping of institutional mechanisms. Addressing these institutional and governance gap is the second great challenge of globalization.



## 8. Summary

It is obvious that globalization has come to stay; Nation-States can do little or nothing to stop or reshape it. But it is pertinent that developing nations, with special reference to Nigeria should determine and decide the nature and level of their participation in the globalizing world. Concentrating on consolidating the structures and composition of our national economy, putting more effort to improve our gross domestic product, per capita income, infrastructural development, security, and education will be more beneficial. This will make us play well, the politics involved in globalization. We should note that "...if therefore, now that we are independent, we allow the same condition to exist that existed in colonial days, all the resentments which overthrew colonialism will be mobilized against us. Unless we do this by our concerted efforts, within the framework of our combined planning, we shall not progress at the tempo demanded by today's events and the mood of our people. The symptoms of our troubles will grow, and the troubles themselves become more chronic. It will then be too late even for Pan African unity to secure for us stability and tranquility in our labours for a continent of social justice and material well-being. Unless we establish African unity now, we who are sitting here today shall tomorrow be victims and martyrs of neo-colonialism...". (Kwame Nkrumah)

## 9. Conclusion

Globalization is exposing our weaknesses to the rest of the world. It is at the same time, making us to believe without reservation that we can do little or nothing to develop without the industrialized nations. A cursory look at the composition of our country with unbiased determination to implement very religiously to the letter, well articulated development agenda in addition to appreciation and consumption of locally goods and services, development is bound to come and stay. No matter how we look at it, consumption of foreign made goods can only bring individual satisfaction but cannot foster national development like the opposite of it.

## 10. Recommendations:

1. If what is meant by development is what Njoku defined, as contained above, then we must be on the part to development before we begin to think of inseparable integration in the globalizing world. The amount we are spending on importation of food items could be reversed by investing very wisely in our local industries, so that local production can increase at least to meet the food needs of Nigerian citizens.
2. The already established bodies in charge of standardization of Nigerian product should wake up as their duty is of national importance. The writer is making special reference to Standard Organizations of Nigeria (SON), Nigeria Industrial Standard (NIS) and the Nigerian Public Complain Commission. Their commitment to duty will improve the standard of Nigerian products thereby making the citizens to develop the spirit of consuming locally made products.
3. The rate corruption in Nigeria is too high and it is giving the rest of the world the opportunity to underrate us. The funds which should have been invested in our country are being looted and dumped in foreign accounts. This calls for concerted efforts by the appropriate authorities to curb the menace.
4. Consumption of locally made goods and services is the best and most effective way of encouraging our local industries to continue to develop on their line of production, so as much as possible, government should Endeavour to make favourable policies and create a conducive atmosphere so that investors can come rather than importing goods.
5. High tariff should be imposed on such goods like rice, sugar, wheat, etc so that importation of such will be minimized. Our rice farmers should be encouraged by consuming it more. Government on the other hand should increase effort to support not only rice farmers but agriculture as a whole and other sector of the economy in order to achieve even development in our country. This will form our base for integrating in the globalizing world.

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*Saturday Punch*, March 13, 2004

### List of Tables

Table 1: Nigeria's ranking by GDP (PPP)

Table 2: Summary of Nigerian economic outlook (2010 – 2012)