
THE ROLE OF POLITICS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Purpose of the Study: This paper explains the relationship between politics and the implementation of public policy, with specific focus on the Nigerian context. It examines how politics influences policy development, legitimization, and implementation outcomes.

Methodology: The study used a qualitative and analytical approach to investigate how political interests influence the bureaucratic process and shape the implementation of public policies in Nigeria.

Findings: The findings reveal that political actors often develop and influence policies to serve partisan or personal interests. This weakens the bureaucratic process, undermines effective implementation, and contributes to poor governance outcomes.

Conclusion: The paper concludes that effective policy implementation in Nigeria requires political will, constant policy review, good public administration, effective political communication, and accountability mechanisms that separate public administrative processes from political interference.

Keywords: *Politics, Policy Implementation, Governance, Communication, Public Administration, Nigeria*

INTRODUCTION

The developments that would be beneficial to people of any country in short or long term depend on the leaders chosen to run the country by the system of governments the

society adopts for governance. A society that goes with the democratic type of government like Nigeria provides its citizens with the fundamental human right to choose their leaders and representatives in the executive and legislative arms of government, which is called “The Right to Vote”, in the executive arm of government, Presidents and Governors are elected by the people to lead the country or state to political prosperity that would advance the state of affairs and the welfare of the people. In the legislative arm of government, members of the House of Parliament are also elected to provide laws, discard laws, and assess some decisions proposed by leaders in the executive arm, in order to promote the value and significance of the country.

The decisions proposed by leaders in the executive arm that are later passed into law by the legislative arm and upheld by the judiciary arm are called POLICIES. They are the set of rules and guidelines that a platform uses to govern the conduct of its institutions and citizens. This understanding aligns with classical political science frameworks, wherein Lasswell (1951) described policy as the study of who gets what, when, and how, while Easton (1965) considered policy as the authoritative allocation of values within a political system. Policies are made everyday by policymakers in the society and contribute to the core part of the society among humans in everyday life, whether they are aware or unaware, because it is a deliberate system of guidelines to guide decisions and achieve rational outcomes. Policies are well promoted by some people to make other people that are unaware informed through effective political communication, which would result in effective implementation. Ezeani (2014) argues, the objective of governance in Nigeria has long been misrepresented by the intrusion of political interests into what ought to be technical and administrative process, a factor that this paper seeks to critically examine. Over the years in Nigeria, various well-conceived policies have been suggested and passed into law to be carried out and implemented for the betterment of the people, but they have yielded little to no profitable results due to the influence of political sentimentalities of some officeholders, aristocrats, and politicians in the country.

In a country like Nigeria with vast numbers of ethnic groups and populations from different geopolitical zones, it is certain that some problems would exist when it comes

to public policy implementation, due to the ideological differences and cultural diversities of the people. These problems could be about the issue of politics, education, finance, agriculture, transportation, natural resources, etc. To solve these problems in each sector requires dialogue among the members in the legislative arm and leaders in the executive arm of government in order to formulate policies to tackle the issues and implement them for the national development, affairs, and welfare of the citizens. Policies are necessary to be taken and implemented effectively because, if certain measures are not taken that would plausibly solve problems as they arise within a time frame, they may develop into more problems that would require more policies, the ones that would financially be cost to be put into use, which would affect the society's socio-economic development and growth.

The government officials of Nigeria in all tiers of government should be able to put political differences aside when it comes to signing in a policy that would be beneficial to the people in the long-term, in order to improve developments in the country. A nation cannot move forward if the leaders are mentally backwards despite the numerous resources it may have. Building and developing a nation requires leaders that can set aside their personal interests. When it comes to implementing a policy, the leaders' rational choices should mainly be about the people that elected them for the betterment of everyone which definitely includes them.

The Significance of Policy Implementation

A policy is a course of action by world leaders, politicians, lawmakers, regulators, government officials and other stakeholders to address the needs of the citizens, resolve an issue of public concern, or set an agenda. Anderson (2015) describes public policymaking as a process shaped not only by rational design but by the influence of the political environment within which decisions are made and debated. A public policy, before getting to the stage of implementation, should be passed through three cycles called “**Policy Cycles**” illustrated in figure 1, that consist of: Policy Development, Policy Implementation, and Policy Review.

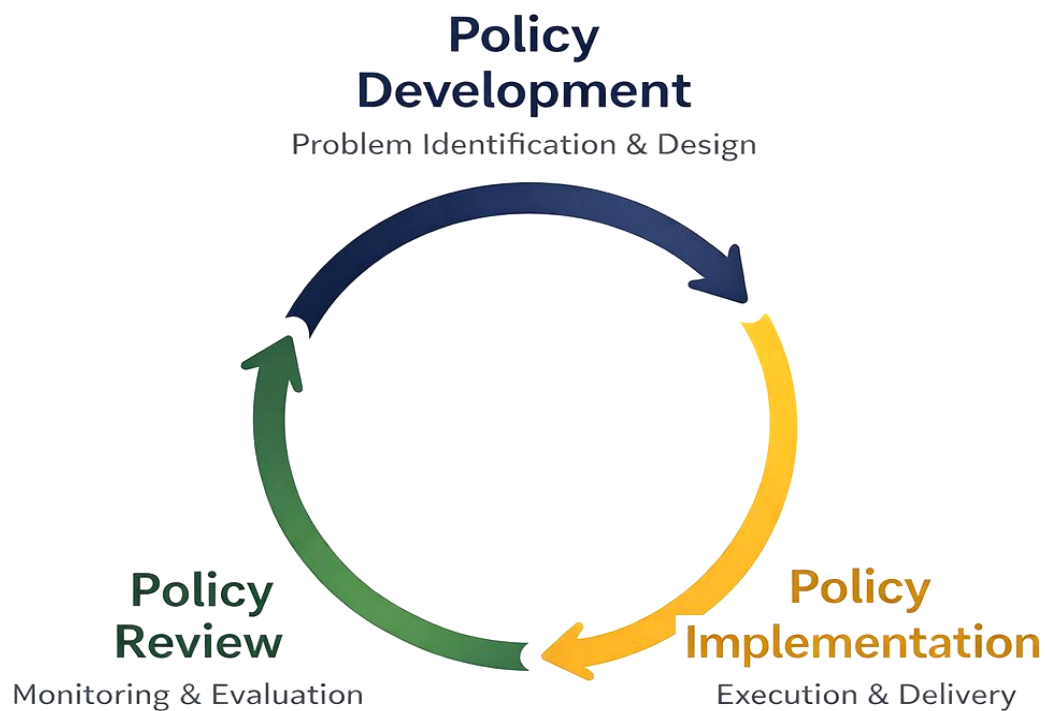


Figure 1. The Policy Cycle Model

Policy Development

It refers to the process of formulating guidelines and strategies to address various issues, such as economic growth, environmental impacts, and social inequalities continuously, because it is a never-ending process of continuous revision and refinement. The development of policy encompasses all political, economic, and social measures to help improve living conditions in developing countries in a sustainable way. Every governmental ministries and agencies can come up with a policy that is plausible enough to counter a rising issue in a society, for example: the issues of illicit drugs and substances, scarcity of petroleum products, inefficiency of education, technological issues, housing issues etc. Once a decision is made to embark on policy development, good results depend on proper preparation and proper work plan. There is a saying that “Whoever fails to plan, plans to fail.” To ensure a good policy is put in place to yield improvements in the society, it requires: outlining the responsibilities of decision-

making bodies; establishing the rules of engagement; drafting work plans, timetables and budgets; preparing communication strategies; and building capacity to manage the process and engage stakeholder groups in a meaningful way.

Developing a policy that would be implemented in a society requires effective communication. The opinions of the public conducted by the government officials and journalists, should be later assessed to develop some areas that seem unpromising in the policy plan, because public input plays a central role in developing the vision, aims, and objectives of any strategy for change. A consistent template should be used when formulating and drafting public policies. In Nigeria, numerous of brilliant policies have been formulated and implemented, but there has been no apparent or significant development to show for that until recently, when Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration came in to create commissions that would account for the developments in each region, which are the: South West Development Commission (SWDC), North West Development Commission (NWDC), North East Development Commission (NEDC), South East Development Commission (SEDC), North Central Development Commission (NCDC), and South South Development Commission (SSDC). Nigeria has consistently remained in the category of the least developed countries of the world, due to the mismanagement of funds and resources by the corrupt politicians and appointed officeholders who are meant to allocate funds to develop infrastructure and social amenities in the society, especially the people residing in the local governments.

A new policy needs to focus on forthcoming future events, not the past. Future conditions that are well calculated need to be in focus when a new policy is being developed by experts in a national development committee. These experts, with foresight and familiarity with upcoming trends in the wider socio-economic context, can propose useful information to the policy development process. According to the Department of the Taoiseach (2025), good policy development needs to be concise with the issue at hand, established how it should be approached, involved appropriately with interested stakeholders, be carried out with accurate design and implementation of the selected policy option, and adapt the policy based on past circumstances during implementation and in response to changing circumstances. After all these requirements

are met up by the appropriate bodies in terms of developing a policy then the next stage is the implementation of a policy, which is an important stage.

Policy Implementation

It represents the stage where the government executes an adopted policy as signed as a bill by the legislative arm of government and various government agencies and departments responsible for the respective area of policy are formally made responsible for its implementation. As Theodoelou and Kofinis (2004, *cited by* PL SC 490, 2023) note, policy implementation is what happens after a bill becomes law. It can also be defined as a series of activities undertaken by the government and others to achieve the goals and objectives articulated in policy statements. In this stage of policymaking, after the design of a policy, the selected solutions are implemented by stakeholders or committees charged with carrying them out. During this stage, elected and appointed individuals at the executive arm of governments make unanimous decisions about how to deploy manpower, money, and other resources in order to convert a policy into an action (Frameworks Institute, 2018).

This complexity was well documented by Pressman and Wildavsky (1973), who demonstrated how well-designed federal policies in the United States consistently failed at the execution stage to the multiplicity of actors and decision making involved which is a lesson that remains deeply relevant to the Nigerian context. The implementation of a certain policy is very much dependent on situational contexts such as political, social, and economic factors that affect how well or how imperfectly a policy has been implemented (Meter & Horn, 1975; Stewart et al., 2008). The primary purpose of a policy when implemented is to effect change in the environment, making it more conducive for the public in ways that make a direct impact on the daily lives of citizens.

It is more plausible for a policy to have a straightforward impact on a citizen in a democratic country, like Nigeria, than in an autocratic country, because a policy will be well examined and evaluated by stakeholders in all arms of governments which means they will be involved in the process. Having this type of governance setting in Nigeria is supposed to be effective and make the country more advanced in terms of developmental changes than what it is to date. For policy changes to be effective, the

implementation process needs to be considered as vital as the policy decision-making itself, which makes implementing a policy a complex and difficult process. It can, however, be made easier when the right measures are met through effective political communication which requires sharing information to the people with the language majority of them can understand (Yusuf, 2024). Government officials responsible for formulating a new policy or in charge of amending the existing ones need to ensure that the public policy is written in plain language; where possible, such policy is also available in indigenous languages or other official language of the country.

The policy implementation process is not linear, nor does it take place in a closed system. It is politicized and fragmented, involving changes in the structure and rules of institutions (Crosby, 1996). Simon (2010, *cited by* Khan, 2016) looks at implementation as the application of the policy by government administrative apparatus so as to achieve policy goals. Achieving those goals requires effective implementation which needs coordination among multiple entities. It also involves allocating resources like funding and personnel. Monitoring and evaluation are key components to ensure policies are executed correctly, and successful implementation can lead to significant societal improvements serving as the purpose of a policy. If the purposes are not achieved when a policy is being implemented, then the policy needs to be reviewed to meet public standards.

Policy Review

This stage happens after a policy is developed and implemented but has yet to meet up with the target initially set by the policymakers and government officials. For example, “Security Architecture”: to tackle the issue of insecurity in a state in order to maintain stability, a policy is developed and passed into law by government officials in the executive and legislative arms of government (in a democratic-governed state), and later put into action by agencies created under a developed policy to eradicate the issue of insecurity and reduce crimes. If the issue still persists, then the policy created to tackle the issue of insecurity needs to be evaluated and reviewed entirely, by consulting experts who would come up with plausible solutions, the use of advanced technologies, and provide more funds if need be.

A policy review is a process to evaluate the working of a particular policy. When a policy is not working properly, a review is done; sometimes a change in policy may make it more effective (Prakash, 2020). Government policies need to be reviewed regularly, just like any other policies of any other institution, to ensure they remain up to date and relevant (Kano, 2022). There is usually no period of time on when to conduct a review of policy; however; it is highly recommended that governments (specifically, the Nigerian government) should determine a reasonable period to review their policies. For the reviewed policies to be implemented effectively, they can do so by: identifying the problems, setting an agenda, developing a well-drafted policy, and implementing the updated policy. To maintain the quality of governance, these criteria have to be met based upon how visionary the public policy is for the good of the people. This will ensure that policy advisors and government institutions manage the progress and properly evaluate the outcomes of the policies.

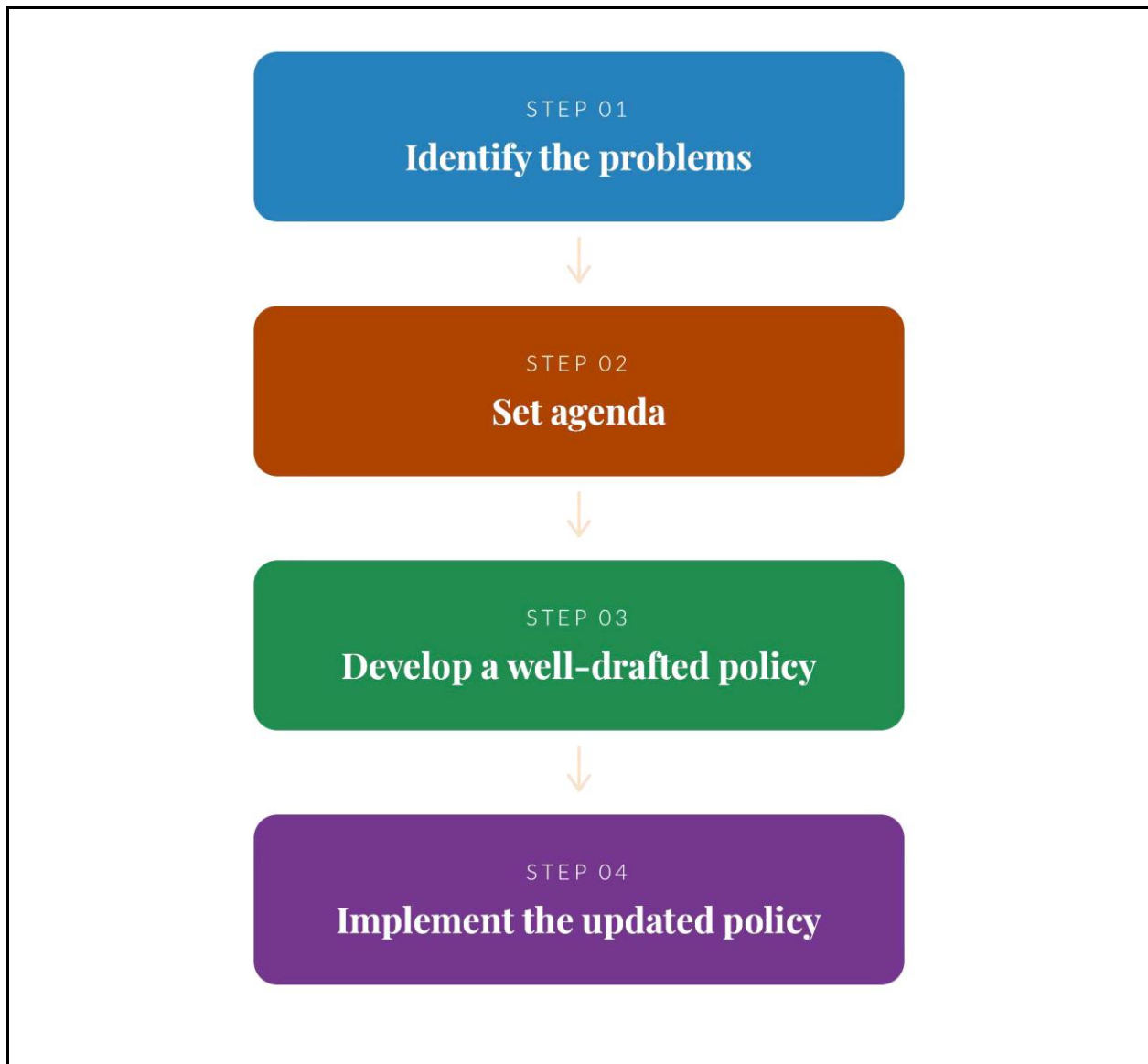


Figure 2. Sequential Stages in the Policy Formulation and Implementation Process.

- **Identify the problems** - The public policy review process starts by defining the policy issue or the problem. A problem is said to occur when existing conditions are unsatisfactory, for which is sought from the government (KIPPRA, 2020). The policies created today will suddenly lose their effectiveness, which is why it is important to identify the problems that might be due to outdated technologies, natural disaster, environmental conditions, insufficient resources, market conditions, etc. In order to achieve the aim of governance, which is to lead people to political prosperity, leaders must take it into consideration to

replace outdated policies with new ones that offer solutions, identified during policy review.

- **Set agenda** - Policy agenda-setting comes after a problem has been identified during the reviewing of a policy and the ability to express a problem. It refers to both formal and informal procedures for gaining access to and influencing policy processes (Desai, 2011). Specifically, it refers to a deliberate planning process through which policy issues are identified, problems defined and prioritized, support mobilized and decision-makers lobbied to take appropriate action (Desai, 2011). A problem becomes an agenda when government officials give it serious attention. For example; In Nigeria, the question of how quality education can be achieved has become a national issue, and parliament members at the National Assembly within the committee of educational planning are addressing the issue by consulting advocates and policymakers. Policy agenda is and ought to be differentiable from political priorities because it is strictly associated with governance. When an agenda is set after problems are identified, a well-drafted policy can be developed to attain good governance in a state.
- **Develop a well-drafted policy** - After an agenda is set on a particular issue prioritized to tackle by a government, the next during a policy review is to develop a well-drafted policy. This should consist of; new ideas, amended principles, and plausible solutions created by policymakers, statesmen, writers, philosophers, and academics within the field of public administration, in order to produce an effective policy that would yield positive results and be sustainable in the long term. The development of a well-drafted policy refers to the systematic process of translating an identified problem into a coherent and implementable policy instrument that is clear in purpose, evidence-based, and responsive to stakeholder needs. A well-drafted policy establishes precise objectives, sets out roles and responsibilities, and ensures feasibility through resource and timeline specification, while maintaining coherence with existing legal and institutional frameworks. It is characterized by clarity, stakeholder consultation, risk assessment, measurable indicators, and built-in mechanisms for maintaining, evaluation, and periodic reviews. Such a process not only

enhances the quality and legitimacy of policy outcomes but also increases the likelihood of effective implementation and long-term sustainability (Bardach, 2012; Dumn, 2012; Howlet & Ravash, 1995; Kingdon, 1984).

- **Implement the updated policy** - After all the necessary top three steps when conducting policy review are done, the next important action to take is the implementation of the updated policy. Implementation is the continuation of politics by other means, and policy making does not end with the making of new law signed by the president. It involves all the activities designed to execute the policies enacted by the legislative branch, including the creation of new organizations, departments, agencies, bureaus, and so on (Dye, 1995). An updated policy is often articulated as high-level goals and objectives and includes a range of stakeholders involved in implementation before it has an impact on citizens. In order for an updated policy to be well implemented, certain enablers are important, which are: good leadership, effective political communication, and feedback mechanisms (Centre for Effective Services, 2022).

The Role of Politics in The Implementation in Nigeria

In Nigeria, politics plays a vital role in Nigeria's affairs and development, requiring thorough policy making enacted by government officials (elected and appointed). During general elections, candidates of different political parties often mention, at their campaigns, how they are going to improve systems and important areas that contribute massively to the people's welfare, namely language, education, economy, security, and transportation. However, it has been repeatedly noticed that it is often a different case when these candidates (the winners) eventually get to office. This pattern has been well described by Makinde (2005), he observed that in developing nations like Nigeria, political calculations consistently override technocratic considerations in policy execution, resulting in outcomes that serve the elites' interests rather than public welfare. Harry & Harry (2022) also found that Nigeria's democratic governance has been consistently undermined by political influence penetrating the bureaucratic system, weakening the state's capacity to deliver on policy commitments. For that not to be the case anymore, political leaders and government appointees must create policies

that would be effective following the steps of the policy cycle for good governance and public administration.

The Role of Politics in Nigeria's Language Policy

Language policy, which is directly concerned with language practice, language ideology, and language management, is generally defined as the deliberate decisions made by the governments or any other authority with regard to the relationships between language and social life (Djite, 1994). It is considered one of the most important among the many formulated in various fields of life, such as economy, health, education, environment, social security, industry, and trade (Kumar, 2020). A language policy is a policy mechanism that impacts the structure, function, use or acquisition of language and includes: official regulations, unofficial regulations, products and processes, and policy texts and discourse across multiple contexts (Johnson, 2013).

Nigeria is a country with a population of about 230 million people and a multilingual nation consisting of about over 520 native languages spoken, but the English language serves as the official language and also used as the language of instruction in all geopolitical zones across all socio-economic classes of the country. The language and educational policymakers of the country have legalized three languages called the National languages of Nigeria, which are: Hausa (*spoken in the Northern region*) with over 63 million speakers, Igbo (*spoken in the Eastern region*) with over 31 million speakers, and Yoruba (*spoken in the Western region*) with over 47 million speakers. The Nigerian language policymakers are still influenced by the use of English in all sectors as a general language in official settings despite the country being a multilingual society with diverse people, and this has contributed to the weak enforcement of indigenous language policies.

Language policymakers should make policies that promote the use of indigenous languages, which would make people, especially government officials, be comfortable speaking the indigenous languages in official settings, in order for local Nigerians to understand information easily, contributing to effective political communication. There are some policies that are not well understood and known by some Nigerians, especially the people residing at the local governments. For example, *the issue of fuel subsidy*,

which was eradicated by President Bola Ahmaed Tinubu's administration because it has been discovered that it has been causing more harm than good, but some Nigerians do not understand the benefits of removing the fuel subsidy from Nigerian affairs. To prevent this kind of confusion from recurring, the Nigerian government should create and implement a policy where the 774 local government chairmen should only address their people using the local languages spoken in their designated local areas. This should be also applicable to state governors.

In terms of education, the role of local language to be used in educational context should be highly promoted by Nigerian government officials in the Federal Ministry of Education and parliament members within the committee of education, so as to integrate local languages as languages of instruction into Nigeria's educational system. Implementing this policy can contribute to the enhancement of accessibility, promote national unity, and strengthen cultural heritage in the country.

The Role of Politics in Nigeria's Educational Policy

Education is a process of human enlightenment and empowerment for the achievement of a better and a higher quality of life. A sound and effective system of education results in the continuous development of learner's potentialities, the strengthening of their skills, and the fostering of positive interests, attitudes and values (Mbachu & Hamilton-Ekeke, 2013). Nigeria's educational policy is shaped by the impact of colonialism, cultural diversity, and different people with different languages. There are over 500 indigenous languages spoken in the country, which has created debates among politicians and policymakers on the decision on which language is to be used in schools that would promote access to quality education, equality among learners, and good learning outcomes or results. Educational policy is defined as a set of guidelines and strategies aimed at achieving inclusive and equitable access to quality education for all individuals, promoting lifelong learning, and ensuring the elimination of gender disparities in educational opportunities, which encompasses efforts to enhance literacy, numeracy, and skill development to improve economic conditions and social well-being (Sen & Kumar, 2024).

Numerous policies have been made to tackle the issue of insufficient education in Nigeria, and yet the country still struggles with a learning crisis, as evidenced by significantly low learning outcomes, the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) recognizes language vitality and utility as necessary conditions and tools that would facilitate development regarding the low learning outcomes in the different socio-economic classes, and also need also the need to establish core language policy directions and guidelines for the country (NERDC, 2022). All progressive societies have recognized the huge potential of education and have dedicated themselves to the globalization of education, with its explicit aim of providing quality education for all (Mbachu & Hamilton-Ekeke, 2013). For Nigeria to join other progressive societies, educational reform policy pertaining to today's world needs to be considered by the government officials and stakeholders within the board of education.

To meet up with other progressive societies, curriculum development should be one of the major concerns in the Nigerian educational policy. Curriculum development is about the process of making decisions about what to teach, how to teach it, and how to assess whether it was learned. It is essential that policymakers and stakeholders in Nigeria's educational sector create a curriculum that includes teachings aligned with today's world and the future, for the purpose of catching up with the progressive societies. By:

- Integrating ICT (Information Communication Technology) in Nigeria's curriculum, because technology is highly important nowadays due to globalization;
- Utilizing understandable languages spoken in all geopolitical zones to students as languages of instruction by teachers;
- Providing qualified teachers;
- Developing conducive school environments.

Needs and environment analysis need to be highly taken into consideration by policymakers and other officials involved when creating an educational policy for Nigerians. Investing in education leads to enhancement of intellectuality, creativity, leaders, and patriotism in a society, which later on brings a return on investment (ROI) and contributes massively to the state's economy.

The Role of Politics in Nigeria's Economic Policy

Economic policy is a fundamental tool that governments wield to drive their nations towards growth, stability, and prosperity. Through fiscal, monetary, and structural policies, governments influence the direction of economic activity, seeking to balance objectives like full employment, low inflation, and sustainable growth (Gupta, 2024). On taking office in 2023, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration created an economic policy centered on inclusive growth and poverty reduction, focusing on National Development Plans like the upcoming 2026 – 2030 plan, agricultural modernization, and skills development.

The Federal Government of Nigeria has implemented difficult policy reforms to fight against long-standing obstacles pressuring on the economy. While the policy reforms are starting to yield results, poverty and food insecurity remain high, and the unprecedented global environment presents additional challenges (Schimmelpfennig & Ebeke, 2025). One of the policy reforms the present government is taking on to change the trajectory of the economy to a positive state is to differentiate between *Fiscal Policy* and *Monetary Policy*. Most of the Nigerian people do not differentiate between these two terms which are quite distinctive. The committee in charge of the economy must always be keen to educate the people when explaining a new developed economic policy, clarifying on each occasion whether it pertains with the fiscal policy or monetary policy, through the use of effective political communication.

Fiscal policy involves government spending and taxation. By adjusting these levers, governments can either stimulate an economy or regulate it. During periods of economic depression, for example, governments often engage in expansionary fiscal policy by increasing spending or cutting taxes to boost aggregate demand. The success of fiscal policy hinges on timing and execution. *Monetary policy* involves controlling the money supply and interest rates, managed by central banks; its primary goals are managing inflation, controlling unemployment, and stabilizing the currency (Gupta, 2024). Central banks, such as the Central Bank of Nigeria, adjust interest rates to control economic activity. Lower interest rates can encourage borrowing and investment, while higher rates can help control inflation. President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, based on his

economic policy reform agenda, has enacted duties to the right parastatals in charge of the two defined policies, the NRS (Nigeria Revenue Service) *formerly known as* the FIRS (Federal Inland Revenue Service) and the Presidential Fiscal Policy and Tax Reforms Committee, to be in charge of the Nigerian fiscal policy; while the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to be in charge of the Nigerian monetary policy, operating alongside with the the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Finance.

The Nigerian policymakers have embarked on a series of bold reforms over the last two years to achieve and maintain economic stability. In 2023, the present government and the Central Bank of Nigeria moderated the foreign exchange market, halted central bank financing of the fiscal deficit, and reformed fuel subsidies (Schimmelpfennig & Ebeke, 2025). Part of the bold reforms is the *Tax Reformation*, by definition, consists in changing the structure of one or more taxes or the tax system, in order to improve their functioning for achieving their objectives (Collosa, 2017). For adequate generation of revenue in the country, President Tinubu set up a committee which is the Presidential Fiscal Policy and Tax Reforms Committee, led by Mr. Taiwo Oyedele as the chairman. Mr. Oyedele leads a team of experts and other stakeholders to design and implement reforms that will enhance fiscal governance, revenue transformation, and facilitate economic growth in Nigeria. The tax reform bill, a policy designed by Mr. Oyedele and his team was recently signed into law on June 26, 2023, introducing a new era for Nigerian employees and business alike. The new tax reform policy includes four new acts, which are: The Nigeria Tax Act, The Nigeria Tax Administration Act, The Nigeria Revenue Service (Establishment) Act (NRSA), and The Joint Revenue Board (Establishment) Act (JRBA) (Oriaifoh & Obaretin, 2025). Together, these reforms combine and replace over a dozen tax laws to create one clear system that covers personal income tax, corporate tax, value added tax (VAT), capital gains, and overall financial management.

At the 2023 Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) interactive session, President Tinubu stated an important policy he would implement to attract more investors into the country: making the crude oil sector competitive in the oil market through incentives that expand the base of money coming into the country's revenue. He further

emphasized that in order to grow an economy effectively, there needs to be a timeline on a proposed bill so that investors can have confidence in bringing their money in, and creating a safe environment for businesses. Which deals with the implementation of effective security policy.

The Role of Politics in Nigeria's Security Policy

A security policy is a guide to action for the government. It is not a law, but its implementation may require changes in the legal framework that governs security provision, management, and oversight. It is a policy that offers an opportunity to apply the principles of good governance to the security sector (DCAF, 2015). A nation can only progress when its citizens' lives are secure, with full trust on the security architecture that will protect them from threats that could harm its sovereignty, stability, or survival and that specifically refers to *National Security*.

One of the things hindering the progress of Nigeria is the issue of security, which must be a collective concern in the country regardless of the religion, tribe, socio-economic class, political party affiliation. National security should reflect not the point of view of the current government and other state institutions, but also those of the men and women of the population whose views are requested through democratic representation or public consultation (DCAF, 2015). The policymakers and other stakeholders within the National security board of Nigeria should review the security policies and develop a substantial policy that would be implemented by all security agencies, in order to tackle the issue of insecurity in Nigeria. When insecurity is taken down with immense force, the environment would be safe for the people to conduct any legal activities that would improve the development of the nation.

Based on the National Security Strategy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the National objectives are to protect Nigerian people and territory, promote Nigeria's prosperity and sustainable development, promote National unity and peaceful co-existence, and promote regional and international interests (NSS, 2019). These must be the main concerns for officers at within the security agencies of Nigeria, which consists of: the Nigerian Armed Forces (Army, Navy, and Air Force), the Nigeria Police Force for law enforcement, the State Security Service (SSS) for internal intelligence, the National

Intelligence Agency (NIA) for foreign intelligence, and the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) for military intelligence. Other key security agencies include the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) for infrastructure protection, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), the Nigerian Correctional Service, and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). These agencies all have security policies they operate by in order to fulfill the National objectives for the sake of the National interest.

The issue of security should not be an issue to debate about and ponder on among government officials, especially by elected officials (the president and 35 governors) and appointees. It must be taken with firm measures in order to secure the prosperity of the nation. When a certain security policy does not have an effect after being implemented, it must be reviewed swiftly by the policymakers and stakeholders so as to eradicate any form of potential harm that might cause significant damage in any regional part of the country. The act of negotiating with criminals, terrorists, bandits, and militants by government officials needs to stop, because that will not reduce the crime rates in the state; rather, it boosts up criminals' confidence to commit more offences, with the sense that "*the government would not harm us but negotiate with us.*" Anyone caught with substantial proof of capability to commit a serious crime that would put the people's lives in jeopardy must be eliminated by the security agencies that have the jurisdiction to do so.

According to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, a change of mindset is needed among the Nigerian people, most especially the youths, because the mindset is critical to human and economic development. The security agencies should adopt a recruitment policy that aligns with today's mindset, to draw the attention of the youths to serve the country by creating a sense of purpose they will have when joining security forces. The more the number of security operatives, the more activities would go on safely, contributing to human and economic development, especially in the means of transportation.

The Role of Politics in Nigeria's Transportation Policy

Transportation plays an important role in fostering economic growth, linking people to essential services, the growth of cities, and the creation of jobs (World Bank, 2025). It

plays a vital role in national development by serving as the economy's "circulatory system," connecting regions, facilitating the movement of goods and people, and promoting trade, investment, and job creation (EduRev, 2025). By lowering costs, increasing market accessibility, enabling resource distribution, and supporting social interaction and mobility, efficient transport infrastructure is a fundamental driver of economic growth, prosperity, and societal advancement (County Office, 2023). Transport activity is a proposition in attaining economic cooperation agreements, bringing world regions into global circuits by creating distribution networks open to needs of potential beneficiaries (Filip & Popa, 2014). It is the cornerstone of civilization and development, creating linkages between people and places, and opening up economic spaces, corridors and opportunities (Chikani, 2021).

Transportation policy deals with developing a set of constructs and propositions set up to achieve precise goals relating to social, economic, and environment conditions, and the functioning and performance of the transport system (Rodrigue et al. 2024). The Nigerian government is in charge of national transport developments that includes the modes of transportation (air, land, and water) to execute the action of transport which is the movement of an organism or thing from one point to another. In order to ensure good means of transportation, the Nigerian government's primary aim is to research and implement a national transport planning policy that would improve the economic, environmental, and social environment. The 2010 Nigerian National Transport Policy (NTP) was a federal government initiative to create a new direction for the transport industry, aiming for an adequate, safe, environmentally sound, and efficient system to support economic growth through the development of petroleum resources and their positive impact on the nation's social and economic development (Chikani, 2021). The policy was developed to tackle critical deficiencies, particularly in the road sector, and to stimulate economic development by improving the links between people and places. The key goals of the policy are: improving road conditions, developing rail and waterway infrastructure, promoting intermodal transport, and enhancing safety standards through collaboration and investment (Oroleye, 2019).

The transport industry has made some significant contribution towards the growth of Nigeria's economy between 1999 and 2007, the economy indicates that Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew from N477,532.99 million naira to N634,25.10 million naira in 2007 (Ugboaja & Ukpere, 2010). One of the policies that must be implemented firmly is the construction of road networks within the calculated given timeframe, or before, if possible so that people can be able to conduct their transport activities swiftly without solvable circumstances like traffic, faulty design, large potholes, and lack of drainages. According to Oroleye (2019), Nigeria major transport infrastructure as at year 2010, consisted of 34,123 km of Federal roads including seven bridges across Bunue and Niger Rivers, the Lagos ring road, the Third Mainland Axial Bridge; 30,500 km of state; 130,000 km of local roads. In December 2002, the Central Bank of Nigeria conducted a nation-wide survey on the situation of highways in the nation, which estimated the road network of the country to be 194,00 kilometres. It was also revealed that the roads, most especially, the ones in the North-Western and South-Eastern parts of the country, were in bad condition and that also applies to every other part of the country.

The Nigerian Transport Policy (NTP) stakeholders should collaborate with the transportation agencies in Nigeria in order to ensure adequate system of movement among all modes of transportation companies and reduce the rate of hooliganism and illiteracy among the agencies' workers, most especially, among the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), and the rate of flight delays and unprecedented time shifts done by the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN). These two agencies are mentioned specifically because road and air mode of transportation are the most frequently used modes. Transportation agencies in Nigeria include the government-led regulatory bodies like the Federal Ministry of Transportation and its departments, which supervise policy and development for air, rail, road, and maritime transport (Nigerian Federal Ministry of Transportation, 2023).

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are proposed to strengthen the implementation of public policies in Nigeria and minimize the negative impact of political interference:

- **Strengthen Institutional Independence:** The autonomy of administrative and implementing institutions should be guaranteed to ensure that policies are executed based on merit, expertise, and national interest rather than partisan considerations. Establishing strong oversight mechanisms can further promote accountability and transparency.
- **Enhance Political Will and Leadership Commitment:** Political leaders must demonstrate genuine commitment toward effective governance. The success of policy implementation largely depends on the sincerity, dedication, and sense of responsibility displayed by those in positions of authority
- **Promote Merit-Based Appointments:** Public office appointments should be guided by competence, experience, and professionalism rather than political patronage. This will ensure that the right individuals occupy positions critical to policy success.
- **Institutionalize Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks:** Government agencies should develop systematic monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the progress, challenges, and outcomes of implemented policies. This will make it easier to identify weaknesses early and improve performance.
- **Reduce Corruption and Political Patronage:** Effective anti-corruption measures should be enforced at all stages of policy formulation and implementation. Political interference in resource allocation, project selection, and contract awards should be minimized to improve credibility and efficiency.
- **Strengthen Democratic Institutions:** The legislature, judiciary, and civil service should function independently and collaboratively to uphold democratic values and prevent abuse of power. Strong institutions create a balance that ensures policies are implemented in line with legal and ethical standards.
- **Encourage Civic Participation:** Citizens should be actively involved in the policy process through consultations, feedback platforms, and community-

based engagements. A participatory approach increases public trust and improves policy relevance and acceptance.

- **Promote Policy Continuity:** Successive governments should sustain beneficial policies initiated by previous administrations instead of abandoning them for political reasons. This will help maintain consistency, reduce wastage, and foster long-term national development.

CONCLUSION

The study establishes that politics is both a catalyst and a constraint in policy implementation. In Nigeria, political actors play decisive roles in determining the direction, speed, and success of policy outcomes. However, the dominance of political interests, corruption, and weak institutional frameworks often undermines effective implementation. For public policies to achieve their intended social and economic objectives, the political environment must support merit-based administration, transparency, and inclusivity. Strengthening democratic institutions, ensuring bureaucratic autonomy, and promoting civic engagement are fundamental to bridging the gap between policy development and implementation. Ultimately, depoliticizing the administrative process will enhance governance efficiency and foster sustainable national development.

AI USE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The author used Ai-assisted tools solely for the generation of visual figures (Figure 1: The Policy Cycle Model and Figure 2: Sequential Stages in the Policy Formulation and Implementation Process). All written content, analysis, proposed arguments, and conclusion in this paper are the original work of the author with provided references. No generative AI tools were used in the drafting, editing, or development of the textual content of this paper.

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