

*Perspectives on Nigeria's Development:
Essays in Honour of Okechuku Onuchuku*

To be Edited by
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Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa, is confronted by complex social, economic, environmental and political challenges. The situation seems to worsen daily, as citizens now face the dilemma of feeding themselves, sending their children and wards to school, getting transported from one point to another, and protecting themselves from the many physical and human security threats around them. As the government fights developmental challenges, it is important to shed more scholarly light on these issues as well as their trends and impacts. The Nigerian situation generates many questions, such as: How should Nigeria, whether acting alone or supported by the international community, confront and surmount the challenges? And what roles do state and non-state actors play in enabling Nigeria to regain its seemingly lost image of the “giant of Africa”? A multidisciplinary approach to answering these questions is necessary for moving the country forward. This approach combines insights, methods and expertise from multiple disciplines to understand and address these issues. It also enables scholars to move beyond their disciplinary boundaries to harvest ideas from a wide range of sources and analytical tools for shedding better light on why the Nigerian society is regressing on the development ladder while some of its peers in Africa and other developing countries are making giant strides. It equally helps to advance context-specific frameworks for fixing the problems.

Many scholars have been concerned with examining Nigeria's developmental issues. One of them is Prof. Okechuku Onuchuku, DSSRS, BSc, MSc, PhD, MNES, FNIMN, FIMC, FCIFIA, FIABBS, FIBAKM, the Acting Vice Chancellor of Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rumuolumeni, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria. He is a celebrated multidisciplinary scholar with many years of work experience with peers across several disciplines, particularly peace and conflict studies, African studies, political science, environmental studies, public administration and education. However, his specific areas of specialisation are Economic Theory and Policy and Quantitative Economics (Econometrics and Mathematical Economics). He was Head of the Department of Economics and Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Port Harcourt, Director of the University of Port Harcourt Business School, and a member of the University of Port Harcourt Governing Council. He was also

Chairman of the Board of Directors of Rivers State Bureau on Public Procurement. He once served as an adviser to the Rivers State Government on Government Programmes, Policy and Strategy.

In view of the foregoing, a book to be titled *Perspectives on Nigeria's Development: Essays in Honour of Okechuku Onuchuku* is proposed. The focus of the book is on different aspects and dimensions of Nigeria's development, especially the critical issues and how they are being dealt with as well as the gaps that interveners have to fill and how to fill them in practical terms.

Therefore, scholars and development practitioners are invited to submit essays for inclusion in the book project. Prospective contributors may wish to concentrate on the following issues:

1	Background/General Introduction	Conceptual, theoretical, historical, global and methodological perspectives
2	Social Perspectives	1. Addressing poverty and inequality; 2. Improving education and healthcare outcomes; 3. Promoting cultural diversity and national identity; 4. Empowering women and vulnerable groups; 5. Addressing environmental and health challenges
3	Cultural Perspectives	1. Preserving cultural heritage and traditions; 2. Promoting cultural exchange and diversity; 3. Addressing cultural and religious tensions; 4. Encouraging arts and creative industries; 5. Preserving national language and identity
4.	Economic Perspectives	1. Diversification of the economy beyond oil; 2. Investment in infrastructure development; 3. Promoting entrepreneurship and SME growth; 4. Addressing corruption and institutional weaknesses; 5. Implementing fiscal policies for sustainable growth
5	Political Perspectives	1. Strengthening democratic institutions; 2. Addressing ethnic and regional tensions; 3. Promoting good governance and accountability; 4. Encouraging civic engagement and participation; 5. Managing conflict and security challenges
6	Environmental Perspectives	1. Addressing climate change and desertification; 2. Managing natural resources sustainably; 3. Promoting renewable energy and green economy; 4. Protecting biodiversity and wildlife conservation; 5. Ensuring environmental justice and equity
7	Technological Perspectives:	1. Leveraging technology for economic growth; 2. Promoting digital literacy and inclusion; 3.

		Addressing cybersecurity and data protection; 4. Encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship; 5. Developing Nigeria's tech industry
8	International Relations Perspectives	1. Strengthening regional and global partnerships; 2. Addressing global economic and security challenges; 3. Promoting Nigeria's role in international organizations; 4. Enhancing diplomatic relations and cooperation; 5. Addressing migration and diaspora issues
9	Linguistic and Media Perspectives	1. Using language for national development; 2. Using news reportage for peaceful co-existence; 3. Deploying social media for growth and development; 4. Promoting peaceful ethnic relations through communication

Submitted papers should be about 5000 words. The APA (7th edition) referencing style should be used. Kindly send your submissions to Prof. Chibuzor Nwobueze chibuzornwobueze@yahoo.com on or before 26 December 2024. Authors will get two copies of the book and will be invited to its presentation at the next celebration of the honoree's birthday.

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