

ENERGY INTELLIGENCE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORKS IN NIGERIA

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Education and research are now less national priorities than objects of political jockeying¹

Overview

In Energy intelligence, we interrogate the relevance and adequacy of instrumental pillars of sectoral management, with emphasis on achieving location – based energy security, capable of guiding a country’s development process. The current post – reform energy crisis in Nigeria’s flagship sector retains familiar legacy governance systems and regimes. Two immediate concerns are embedding the energy reform process within a subsisting national economic transition, for a sector overwhelmed by obstacles on its transition towards greener production of electricity. It is only indicative of a compelling need for a purposeful-biased and coordinated energy reform process. Non – availability of electricity and poor quality of service characterize the recurring features of the post – reform electricity subsector in the country. The inherent regulatory powers and selected strategies are yet to resolve major developmental imperatives especially stable power supply. Electricity, as public good or commercial product, is pivotal in Nigeria’s economic transition. A two-pronged regulatory mandate required re-positioning the electricity supply industry for broader goals of industrialization and meeting socio-economic expectations of consumers. Nigeria perennially grapples with many development contradictions of huge natural resource of crude oil as well as large scale poverty. Policies and legislations pull through difficult political processes and intrigues to respond to new realities and growing energy needs. This paper argues that in the era of energy transition from fossil fuels to cleaner forms of energy, consumers would be exposed to energy poverty unless early regulatory intervention is made to establish coherent measures for public – private partnership in eradicating energy poverty for example, on the deployment of renewable energy availability and consumption for homes and businesses environments. The threat of energy poverty can be overcome by proper utilization of the county’s diverse energy resources through energy intelligence development. Collaborative efforts of the public private partnership’s programs and projects under coordinated energy intelligence schemes have the potential to stimulate credible search for solution while also, providing framework for sustainable energy transition in Nigeria. While the organized private sector undertakes responsibility of assessing viable projects, preliminary and phased experimentation of projects would be nurtured in programs embedded in designated public institutions. An integrated approach for location – based energy identification by endowments, through empirical evaluations provide cardinal plank in the energy poverty undertaking. Consequently, the insecurities and fatalistic violence occasioned from long years of crude oil exploration can be halted while providing new possibilities in the journey toward cleaner energy transition for people and businesses.

Though international multilateral institutions conventionally interact and cooperate under unified agreements systems, for example, to promote human security, they however pursue diverse interests in the global energy market. Different economic blocs thereafter emerge to strengthen new interests capable of altering pressing and threatening energy realities. In reconciling divergent interests and conflicting perspectives the stakes become high for developing countries often due to incoherent and uncoordinated energy policies. There has been significant growth in the industrial base of the energy dependent sectors of global economy during the concluding part of the twentieth century. The decline in supply of energy to meet the huge local demands has presented different challenges to the developing countries. Different approaches have been adopted by governments across jurisdictions to respond to the emerging economic realities in the energy sector. Nonetheless, the economic reforms have been sustained and continue with varied outcomes and economic results for state actors in the global energy market. The successes and failures in the approaches have continued to attract discordant views from scholars and commentators focusing more

¹ Charles King, The Decline of International Studies: Why Flying Blind is Dangerous. Available, <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/decline-international-studies?cid=soc-fb-rdr>, accessed 25 December, 2015.

on approaches,² and less on identifying significant development prospects for economies of developing countries such as Nigeria. It has been argued that Nigeria possesses diverse energy forms and sources that can meet its energy needs through innovative and transformative energy experiences in the years ahead. In the emerging global energy regime, a seeming ideological premise underlies the divergences in expectations from a uniform central global energy regime. The scenario undermines prospects for exploring synergies and competitive advantages across countries. It particularly diminishes prospects of improved access under prevailing policies driving international energy regime.

Methods

The paper utilizes theoretical and empirical sources to explore regulatory mandates and obligations of multilateral pacts, regional blocs, national laws and policies in understanding the interplay in the dynamic global energy market. Potentials in multi-institutional approaches are explored for sustainable framework in expanding access and rational mixes in meeting local energy needs. Published literatures are evaluated to assess ideological foundations and determine basis for options in sustainable protection of energy needs in Nigeria.

Results

The research identifies discordance in energy resources management in the country. Largely due to lack of credible framework for building consensus with public private entities for example, on initial capital for investment and funding infrastructural development to sustain energy development. The scope of engagement, participation and sunset indicators remain incoherent while business nurturing public private partnership currently undermines energy intelligence and human capital development. Sector – specific legal instruments are needed to support the policies for securing domestic energy needs and development objectives, while their absence would undermine any progress in future and reduce the prospects of reversing energy poverty. The institutional limitations in the energy sector, notwithstanding continuing process of reforms fall short of expected outcomes. Comparative studies across jurisdiction show significant similarity in untoward outcomes from identical approaches adopted in developing economies.

Conclusions

A framework is essential to safeguard energy security, clarity in policy scope, limits of institutional mandates and regulatory governance preceding public – private relations processes of achieving development priorities. Under national and international legal regimes, regulatory capacity should provide critical pillar in conceptualizing national reform policies and framework for energy transition. Effective mechanisms are necessary for identification within national instruments for purposes of actualizing and securing social and economic mandates in the energy sector notwithstanding current gaps and challenges across global energy regimes. Identifying critical limitations, the paper proposes regulatory imperatives for attainment of viable economic ends. Recommendations for regulatory options take into cognizance prevailing ideological dispositions of comparable state actors in the global energy industry. With effective regulatory strategies, Nigeria in concert with developing countries could meet its national energy needs through rational energy mix and appropriate investments in innovative and transformative cleaner energy forms.

Key words: energy intelligence, energy development, public private partnership, cleaner energy investment

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Bureaucrats in Business: The Economics and Politics of Government in Business, World Bank Report, 1995, Oxford University Press, pg. 5

² Reform approaches and components have been stated to include: divestiture, competition, hard budgets, financial sector reform, and changes in institutional relationship between State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) and government. See generally, Bureaucrats in Business: The Economics and Politics of Government in Business, World Bank Report, 1995, Oxford University Press, pg. 5