



THE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD): INITIATIVES AND CHALLENGES

Author Name: Ronald Ampulira (a)

Co. Authors: Kafilah Muhammed Lawal (b)

(a). Uganda Pentecostal University

(b). Faculty of Law, Alhikmah University

ABSTRACT

The 37th summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) now African Union (AU) held in July, 2001 formally adopted the New Partnership for Africa's Development strategic framework development to develop an integrated socio-economic development framework that would guarantee Africa's renewal. The NEPAD founding document makes it very clear that it is national government and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) that must drive the socio-economic renewal agenda. It embodied the principle of no peace without development and no development without peace, that is, if there is no development in a continent, there could be no peace and a continent cannot witness development without relative peace in the continent. NEPAD's development strategy made security a priority. The writer relies on published and unpublished materials like text books, articles in journals, Newspapers, Charters/Acts of some National and International Organisations, Constitutions of some African countries and internet facilities. NEPAD subsequent evolution however revealed a serious disconnection between its focus on development and its peace and security. It is on this backdrop that this paper traced the several developmental plans couched out by various African leaders that eventually manifested into the present day "The New Partnership for Africa's development." The paper further examined the long term, short and medium term objectives of NEPAD and mechanisms through which these objectives could be enhanced. Effort is equally made to discuss the concept of development, achievements and failure of NEPAD in area of Sustainable development, challenges of development in Africa and ways of accomplishing development through the programmes.

ARTICLE INFORMATION

Keywords: NEPAD, Development, Corruption, Poverty, Marginalisation, Violent Conflict

Cite This Article (APA)

: Ronald A. & Kafilah M. L. (2025) The New Partnership For Africa's Development (Nepad): Initiatives And Challenges. *Uganda Pentecostal University Journal of Sustainable Development* 1(1) 1-22. <https://doi.org/10.69612/upujsd-2025-11-006>

INTRODUCTION

The New partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is an initiative that has evolved out of African leadership desire to break away from under development and poverty that was occasioned by past bad governance. It is evident that the present poor state of African countries cannot be extricated from the character of bad government as the history of African countries has been a treatise in bad governance (Albert and Yahaya, 2012). This glaring truth about Africa is a true reflection of most governance environment in African continent which has promoted conflicts and rising poverty on the continent (Thomson, 2007).

At the dawn of the new millennium, African heads of state and government pledged through the New Partnership for Africa's Development to take responsibility for the future of their continent and to establish a new relationship with bilateral development partners and multilateral organisations based on mutual trust, respect and accountability (UN, 2012). The search for the solution to Africans economic underdevelopment and governance problem through the New Partnership for Africa's Development started in 1999 at the Organisation of African Unity Conference in Sirte, Libya which culminated in the production of the Millennium African Recovery Programme (MAP) document, OMEGA Plan and United Nations Economic Community of African (UNECA) Compact for African Recovery Plans (UN, 2012).

In fact, becoming President in June 1999, Thabo Mbeki and his South African colleagues in government and the African National Congress worked in articulating a vision of an African Renaissance, that is, African political, economic and social renewal. They did not stop there, for Thabo Mbeki and others, the vision have to be translated into concrete policies and plan of action. This would be done by turning a new agenda for African recovery on the basis of genuine partnership into concrete plans to generate new forum of cooperation and articulate mutual interest between Africa and the developed world. The New Partnership for Africa's Development is the concrete manifestation of the new agenda. NEPAD therefore recognised the need for partnerships among the key African countries (Chris, 2008). In July 1999, the organisation of African Unity (OAU) Summit in Algeria, as well as the OAU extra ordinary Summit held in Sirte, Libya during September 1999, mandated three African countries, that is, South Africa in its capacity as the Chairman of the Non- Aligned Movement (NAM), Algeria in its capacity as the Chairman of OAU and Nigeria in its capacity as the chair of the Group of 77 within the United Nations to engage the developed countries on the total cancellation of Africa's external debts and promote effort to close the digital divide between African continent and those industrialised countries. A year later, during the 2000 OAU summit in Togo, these three countries received a broader mandate to engage the developed North with a view to developing a constructive

partnership for the regeneration of the continent. Based on this mandate, the three former Presidents raised the issue of a partnership with the leaders of the G.8 at their summit in Japan during July 2000. The work of developing a Millennium for African Recovery Programme (MAP) then began in earnest as an extensive programme on bilateral and multilateral engagement. It was spearheaded by President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria and President Abdul Aziz Bouteflika of Algeria and later joined by President Husein Mubarak of Egypt under the auspices of the Organisation of African unity (Chris, 2008).

The obstacle to the success of the Millennium for African Recovery Programme (MAP) Plan was the simultaneous evolving of the OMEGA Plan coordinated by President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal on behalf of the Franco- phone African countries. The need for common front as a condition precedent for success of the MAP Plan necessitated the reoccupation and compromise among the MAP Plan, OMEGA Plan and UNECA Compact for African Recovery plans because the three plans had the same goal of economic recovery, infrastructural development, debt reduction, poverty eradication and development in order to overcome the exclusion of African Countries in globalisation interactions.

However, concerned about a possible clash between Franco-phone and Anglophone African countries that would reinforce a false political divide, the MAP leaders mandated the South African President, Thabo Mbeki to interact with his Senegalese colleague in order to bring about a merger between MAP and OMEGA Plans. Just before the 2001 OAU summit in Lusaka, Zambia, Abdoulaye Wade visited South Africa and the two leaders and their respective teams finalised plans and successfully merged MAP and OMEGA and named the integrated plans, New African Initiative (NAI). The Lusaka summit endorsed NAI and mandated the leaders to fine-tune the new plan into a partnership between Africa and the industrialised partners of the world (Chris, 2008). The successful amalgamation of the MAP Plan, OMEGA Plan and UNECA Compact for the African Recovery plans culminated in the formation of the New African Initiative (NAI) which was later modified and renamed the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in October 2001 under the supervision of African leaders meeting in Abuja, Nigeria. This diplomatic compromise prevented the initiative from ending in a cul-de-sac at the early stage (Melber, 2004; Leidan, 2003).

OBJECTIVES OF THE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD)

Under the NEPAD spirit, the following objectives were to be meticulously pursued by African leaders:

(a) to promote accelerated growth and sustainable developments;

- (b) to eradicate widespread and severe poverty;
- (c) to halt the marginalisation of African in the globalisation process (Ujo, 2008);
- (d) to empower African women;
- (e) to ensure African ownership, responsibility and leadership of the initiative;
- (f) to create a conducive environment for economic growth and development in both Individual African countries and the continent through the enhancement of political and economic governance;
- (g) to accelerate economic integration and reducing the cost and risks of doing business in the continent;
- (h) to increase output and productivity through the accelerated development agriculture and diversification of the structure of African economies; and
- (i) to mobilise additional capital and technical resources (Sulaiman, 2010).

Other short and medium term objectives are:

- (j) to strengthen mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution at the sub-regional and continental levels and to ensure that these mechanisms are used to restore and maintain peace;
- (k) to promote and protect democracy and human rights in their respective countries and regions, by developing over standards of accountability, transparency and participating governance at the national and sub-national levels;
- (l) to restore and maintain macroeconomic stability especially, by developing appropriate standards and targets for fiscal and monetary policies and introducing appropriate institutional framework to achieve these standards;
- (m) to institute transparent legal and regulatory frameworks for financially market and the auditing of private companies and public sectors;
- (n) to promote the role of women in social and economic development by reinforcing their capacity in the domains of education and training, by developing revenue-generating activities through facilitating access to credit and by assuring their participation in the political and economic life in African countries; and
- (o) to give impetus to African development by bridging the existing gaps in priority sectors in order to enable the continent to catch up with developed part of the world (Sulaiman, 2010).

These objectives are to be pursued in line with:

- (i) Developing a new partnership with industrialised countries and multilateral organisations on the basis of mutual commitments, obligations, interests, contributions and benefits;
- (ii) Ensuring African ownership and leadership;
- (iii) Making Africa attractive in both domestic and foreign investment; and
- (iv) Unleashing the vast potentials of the continent (Ujo, 2008).

For the purpose of achieving these objectives, African leaders declared joint responsibility for a wide range of goals and tasks. These include the strengthening of mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution and ensuring that they are used to restore and maintain peace, the promotion and protection of democracy and human rights by developing clear standards of accountability, transparency and participative governance; the restoration and maintenance of micro-economic stability by developing standards and target for fiscal and monetary policies and appropriate institution frameworks; the institutionalism of transparent legal and regulatory framework for financial market and auditing of private companies and the public sector; to revitalise and extend the provision of education, the technical training and health services with priority on HIV/AIDs, malarial and other communicable diseases; to promote the role of woman in social and economic development; to build the capacity of the African states to set and enforce the legal framework and to maintain law and order; and to promote the development of infrastructure, agriculture and its diversification (Melber, 2004) .

The NEPAD initiative draws its economic focus from the dictum of the neo-liberal orientation of the free market enterprise. The belief in the market system through commercialisation and privatisation provided a valid frame and a converging point for African leaders; governments and international business to allow Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) play its role in economic development in Africa through private initiative. Important also to NEPAD initiative is the recognition that regional market integration rather than the hitherto existing market fragmentation promises to increase efficiency through competition based on the free market operation (Albert and Yahaya, 2012).

CONCEPT OF DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA WITHIN NEPAD

The importance of good governance is to promote the ideals and rules of development. In all circumstances, development should, at all times enhance employment, reduce poverty and address the question and problem of inequality. It is by addressing all these issues that development as a means to an end can improve our living standard and freedom we enjoy (Seers, 1969). About five years ago, the world ushered in the 21st

century and the New Millennium with widespread fanfare and celebration. The African continent also welcomed the New Millennium with feeling of enthusiasm, vigour and a new-found disposition to tackle the development burdens that the continent has been saddled with for such a long time. One manifestation of this renewed vigour has been the establishment of the African Union (AU). Although, buffeted at its inception as representing little more than “Old wine in new keg” on the assumption that there is very little differences between it and its predecessor, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). African Union (AU) has been constituted and is at its incipient state of institutional development (Albert and Yahaya, 2012).

The debate over the meaning of development, its direction and constituents, is one that has persisted for decades. The debate has brought out speculation from contending theoretical perspectives. The celebrated economist, Micheal (1989) distils two core values of development. The first core value is the ability to provide as many people as possible with their basic needs or the ability to acquire adequate food, shelter, healthcare and protection. The second value is that of perception of individual or groups of self-worth and esteem as a respected member of society at large, have an expanded range of choice, not only with respect to the material necessities for self-reproduction but also in their ability to have a say in, if not to determine the method and process by which values are allocated in the society.

From these core values, one acquired an understanding of development as essentially a broad multidimensional process that encapsulates the political, economic and social spheres of life of a people. However, thinking about development at such a broad level of abstraction is not really suffice for the purpose of this paper. In an attempt to capture the developmental aspirations of the African continent, reference has to be made to the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD). Although, it has been subjected to the extensive criticism for its essentially neo-liberalist character, the NEPAD agreement cooperation represents the most recent in a series of development cooperation agreements that have been formulated to help elevate Africa from its morass of underdevelopment. For our purpose, it will help to illuminate the development goals which African leaders have collectively embraced and it will help us to understand the enormous challenges of development that AU faces. Although, analysts and commentators see NEPAD as initiative that is distinct in terms of formulation and pursuit, it has been claimed by African leaders as an initiative of AU. It would not be inappropriate therefore to make reference to it in this context (Michael, 1989).

Article 68 of NEPAD establishes very lofty development goal for the continent. These include the following:

a- to achieve and sustain an average Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of above 7 percent per annum for the next 15 years;

b- to ensure that the continent achieves the agreed international development goals which are:

- i) to reduce proportion of people living in extreme poverty by half between 1990 and 2015;
- ii) to enroll students of school age in primary schools by 2015;
- iii) to make progress toward gender equality and empowering women by eliminating gender disparities in the enrollment in primary and secondary education by 2015;
- iv) to reduce infant and child mortality ration by two-thirds between 1990 and 2015;
- v) to reduce maternal mortality ratios by three quarters between 1990 and 2015;
- vi) to produce access for all who need reproductive health services by 2015; and
- vii) To implement national strategies for sustainable development by 2005 so as to reverse for loss of environmental resources by 2015.

The expected overall developmental outcomes of the agreement include:

- (a) Economic growth and development and increased employment;
- (b) Reduction in poverty and inequality;
- (c) Diversification of productive activities, enhanced international competitiveness and increased exports; and
- (d) Increased African Integration (Sulaiman, 2010).

CHALLENGES OF DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

The institution of the anti-corruption reform which saw the establishment of the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) and the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) to mitigate corruption in Nigeria and many other institutions in various African countries have been enmeshed in controversies. Specifically, EFCC has remained a sup-opera with significant arrest made but none of those high profile cases have been convicted and sentenced except in 2018 when two former governors were sentenced to 14 years imprisonment each, thus questioning the genuineness of government's fight against corruption in Nigeria. Similarly, there has been outcry from some quarters regarding the activities of EFCC as some have questioned its constitutionality, while others have accused the Commission of been a tool for silencing dissenting political voices in Nigeria (Oyovbaire, 2008). Equally detrimental to the NEPAD agenda in Nigeria is the inability of the government to enact and formally enforce the implementation of the Freedom Information

Bill. The enactment of this bill into law is essential in promoting the fundamental element of good governance which are openness and accessibility of the citizens in the affairs of government. African countries have a deal with several development challenges, ranging from poverty, unemployment, commodity dependence and food insecurity, climate change and vulnerability to external shocks. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) research suggests that African countries are likely to make significant progress through NEPAD in addressing these development challenges if the efforts of African governments and their development partners focus on the following key policy areas:

i. Strengthening South -South Cooperation

South-South cooperation can contribute to Africa's development efforts through increasing the resources available for development in the continent, diversifying the continent's export markets and providing access to modern technologies (UNTAD, 2010) suggests that trade is the most significant channel of cooperation between Africa and non-African developing countries. The share of non-African developing countries in Africa's trade increased from about 15 per cent in 1995 to 29 per cent in 2008. While Africa's growing relationship with other developing countries has had some positive impacts, it may also expose domestic firms to more competition and reinforce commodity dependence. In this context, African countries should seek to take advantage of the opportunities provided by South-South cooperation and to minimise the risk.

ii. Enactment of a Legal Framework for NEPAD at Continental Level and NEPAD Commission at Country Level

NEPAD lacks legal framework or enabling law to guide its operations. There should be a legal framework for NEPAD in order to allow it to accomplish its objectives particularly, good governance and sustainable development. Apart from legal framework at continental level, each participating countries should establish NEPAD Commission at their various countries which will assure the attainment of NEPAD's objectives in areas of poverty reduction, fighting crime and corruption. This will also encourage good governance and development not only in their respective countries but in the African continent as a whole (Hammed, 2013).

It is equally observed that, for NEPAD to guarantee sustainable development in Africa, there is need for legal and judicial framework in which laws, regulations and policies that regulate society are clear, fair and continuously applied by member states through an independent judiciary. NEPAD must strive through its implementation structures to fight corruption among its member states; otherwise, its objective to achieve development will be a mirage (Hammed, 2013).

iii. Strengthening Domestic Resource Mobilisation

Mobilisation of domestic resources is also crucial for addressing the development challenges facing African countries. It permits countries to finance important development projects and also to have national ownership of the development process and outcome. Developmental States are needed in African to strengthen resource mobilisation and to channel it into productive investments. They can also ensure that domestic firms have access to long-term finance, particularly in countries that face severe borrowing constraints. In this context, difficulties that African countries encountered in accessing external capital during the recent global economic crises should be taken as a wake-up call to reduce overreliance on external capital for financing development. African countries, particularly those in sub-Saharan Africa, have low domestic savings. The annual average ratio of savings to GDP in sub-Saharan Africa fell from 20 per cent over the period from 1980 to 1989, to 16 per cent over the period from 2000 to 2009. African countries should strengthen domestic resource mobilisation, for example by boosting growth, broadening the tax base, reforming tax and customs administration and stemming capital flight (UNO, 2012).

iv. Proper Enlightenment on the Formation and Objectives of NEPAD

It is difficult to imagine how an independent initiative which is not well articulated at home can have any relevance for Africans which it is meant for. Discussion about the formation of NEPAD is limited to officials in Washington D.C., London, Paris, Tokyo and government officials in African states. Majority of people of Africa do not know what NEPAD is all about. It has been observed that some African leaders went to conferences on NEPAD but failed to deem it fit speaking about it to their own citizens once they come back from the conferences. Few African parliaments were said to have discussed the NEPAD's plan exhaustively in their respective countries (Oyewande, 2011). The initiative was predominantly led by few in government in South Africa, Nigeria, Senegal and Algeria; and to a less extent, Egypt with little participation by civil society (Hammed, 2013).

v. Civil Society Participation and Contribution

Another Important challenge to development is that, there is still a serious gap between the leadership of NEPAD and the people, concerning the dissemination of the idea and essence of NEPAD. This flaw could be attributed to the frantic pace at which the different programmes were conceived and articulated. Enough consultations were not held with people before the formation and even after the formation of NEPAD. This is understandable because as has been explained earlier, what later became NEPAD had diverse origins. The programme was put together within a period of two year, 2000-2001. It was after that, the governments

of different member states started passing the message to their respective citizens. This is one of the responsibilities of NEPAD offices in various member states. Lack of effective mobilisation and commitment of the African people were partly responsible for the failure of many, otherwise laudable development initiatives of the past. There is need for a widespread consultation between NEPAD proponents and the people. Their participation and active involvement need to be encouraged. If they acknowledge that they have stake in the NEPAD's projects and programmes, self-interest would dictate to them that they need to defend it (Sulaiman, 2010).

vi. Developing Infrastructure

The poor state of infrastructure in Africa is a major factor inhibiting structural transformation and the attainment of sustained economic growth in the African continent. It is estimated that African continent requires about \$93 billion per year to meet its infrastructure spending needs and that the continent loses one percentage point of per capital income growth each year as a result of poor infrastructure. The poor state of infrastructure increases transactions costs and makes it difficult for domestic firms in the continent to compete in the global export markets. Therefore, lifting the infrastructure constraint is a necessary condition for structural transformation and growth in Africa (UNO, 2012).

vii. Provision for Fund for Programmes and Objectives of NEPAD

The African countries must rise up to their financial commitment to fast track the effort of NEPAD in ensuring peace and security in Africa which is sine qua non to good governance and development. While NEPAD is funded largely to a large extent by internal resources, its peace and security arm receives significant external assistance. More than 95% of its staff is funded directly or indirectly by partners. While this has helped regional organisations to increase their role and effectiveness, it also leaves them vulnerable to the changing funding partner of donors. Reliance on outside funding also put the sustainability of the projects and activities at risk (Hammed, 2013).

More so, no budget has been set for the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). Indeed, the proposed plan at the moment calls for APRM to gather its resources primarily from those countries that have volunteered to participate in the review process. The countries have to pay \$100 to take part. Countries with no real commitment to NEPAD principles may cite lack of fund as an excuse to duck out of the review process (Hammed, 2013). African countries could mobilise other avenues for funds. It has been estimated for instance, that African businessmen own about \$350 billion kept away in foreign banks (NEPAD, 2011). Among Nigerians alone, it was estimated that a handful of Nigerians stashed away as much as \$48 billion in

foreign bank accounts (Randle, 2003). A combination of measures including cultivating wealth, creating a conducive investment climate and offering amnesty, would encourage repatriation of funds to the continent. Such amnesty gestures would include assurance that there would not be prosecution of illegally acquired funds if invested in productive ventures that would create employment (Sulaiman, 2010).

viii. Promoting Structural Transformation

African countries need high, inclusive and sustained economic growth in order to create employment and reduce poverty. The history of modern economic development indicates that structural transformation is required in order for this to happen. In particular, the countries that have made significant progress in creating employment and reducing poverty have been those that have successfully gone through a process of structural transformation, involving a reallocation of resources and factors of production from low to high productivity activities both across sectors and within sectors. Unfortunately, most African countries are yet to go through this essential process of structural transformation and reverse the recent trend of deindustrialisation. For instance, the share of manufacturing value-added in Africa's gross domestic output fell from about 15 per cent in 1990 to 11 per cent in 2008. Therefore, one of the critical issues that African countries have to address in the short-to-medium term is how to halt this process of deindustrialisation and increase the role of manufacturing and modern services in the economy (UNO, 2012).

ACHIEVEMENTS OF NEPAD IN THE LAST FOURTEEN YEARS (2001-2014)

Although, some scholars have argued that the NEPAD initiative was hoisted in the neo-liberal philosophy which is rooted in the Washington consensus that has promoted the exploitation of Africa (Chukwuemeka, 2008). That nonetheless, the NEPAD initiative is important on some significant ways as it provides a rallying point for which African nations could put their meager resources to profitable public use. It also provides the platform upon which the few civil society that had the knowledge of NEPAD, could demand from their various governments, the values of good governance. It is the basis upon which African leaders can be held accountable for their stewardship; and it provided external donor the exert avenues for channeling foreign aid and the yardstick for measuring its usage by both donors and African nations (Chukwuemeka, 2008). The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is "a pledge by African leaders, based on a common vision and a firm shared conviction, that they have a pressing duty to eradicate poverty and to place their countries both individually and collectively on a path of sustainable growth and development and at the same time, to participate actively in the world economy and body politics (NEPAD, 2001)." Based on this opening

statement, the three main interrelated long term objectives of NEPAD are eradicating poverty, accelerating growth and stopping the marginalisation of Africa in the globalisation process (NEPAD, 2001).

Assessing the achievements of NEPAD is challenging because it is difficult to isolate NEPAD's contribution to observe economic outcomes from those of other programmes and policies. Nevertheless, the available data indicates that Africa's economic growth performance in the decade that NEPAD was introduced (2000-2009) was significantly better than in the decade before its introduction (1990-1999). More specifically, the annual average growth rate of real output in Africa, rise from 2.7 per cent in the period from 1990-1999 to 5 percent in the period (2000-2009). In addition, the growth rate of real output per capital increased from 0 per cent to 2.6 per cent over the same period. It should however be noted that the improvement in Africa's growth performance in the period from 2000-2009 has not had remarkable influence on either employment or poverty reduction (UNO, 2012).

NEPAD has established an e-African commission to act as a task team in development of the ICT sector identified as one of the priority areas of NEPAD. Its works will include, determining how development of the ICT sector can assist in achieving the other objectives of NEPAD, notably, the objective of achieving good governance. The commission has been established in partnership with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development (CAFRAD, 2002).

The framework for action for the e-governance initiative states that, its mission will be to strengthen the institutional capacity of the African governance system at the regional, central and local levels. The programme will provide support in the areas of re-readiness, enabling environment, public participation and private sector agreement, institutional capacity building and monitoring learning and knowledge management (CAFRAD, 2002). Among the anticipated outcomes are decentralisation and a re-defined role for local government. The commission has noted "particular attention should be paid to local e-government where government services and political activity is the closest to the citizen and which after boasts the most innovative initiatives (E-African Initiative for Good Governance, 2003). The work of e-governance initiative will include cooperating with existing programme to bring ICT to local government areas in addition to providing new services, including training, technical and advisory support to local government areas (CAFRAD, 2002).

In the area of peace and security, the then president of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo assured that, significant progress has been recorded. He cited the peaceful resolution of the impasses in Togo as well as peace effort

in Core d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Darfur in Southern Sudan and Guinea Bissau where remarkable success has been realized (Hammed, 2006). The 20 members of the Implementation Committee of NEPAD ended their one-day meeting in Egypt with optimistic about the future and effectiveness of this continental economic body, NEPAD. During the meeting, Mozambican president, Armando Guebuza participating for the first time heads of state in NEPAD gathering reiterated his determination to honour the commitment pledged by his successor, Joaguim Chissani. Mozambican Minister of Foreign Affairs, Aleinda Abreu said that the meeting was successful in the sense that it approved the report on committee's activities during the last three months and drafted new proposals for work to be undertaken by NEPAD secretariat and its experts. She said that some concrete projects are underway in the context of NEPAD, covering areas such as education, infrastructures, agriculture and communication. She pointed out that several schools in Mozambique are being computerised with funds granted through NEPAD. She rejected claims that NEPAD is "white elephant" that has been doing nothing concrete. She argued that despite the fact that NEPAD is new, its achievements to its credits had inspired optimism in the future of African continent. She believed that NEPAD as an African economic instrument will bear the fruits that Africa expect in the same way as did the liberation committee of now defunct Organisation of African Unity in the fight against colonialism. She said: "It is necessary to bear in mind that if colonialism was yesterday Africans' common enemy, poverty is today's enemy. We therefore, fighting an economic war that will obviously not won in just a few years, some gains are obvious (NEPAD, 2001)."

More so, NEPAD has succeeded in placing the question of Africa's development onto the international table and has managed to obtain a fairly high profile and awareness. In doing this, NEPAD has claimed at promoting democracy, stability, good governance, human rights and economic development on the continent. NEPAD has been essentially sold as a bargain. African countries will set up and police standards of government across the continent whilst respecting human rights and advancing democracy in return for increased aid, thus, private investment and lowering obstacles to trade by the west. An extra-flow of \$ 64 billion from the developed world has been touted as reward for following approved policies on governance and economics (Taylor, 2005).

It was equally agreed in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development that NEPAD has put Africa on the global agenda and has also galvanised international support for the continent. As a result of the adoption of NEPAD, the Group of Eight (G8) launched the African Action Plan in June, 2002 and made commitments to support the implementation of NEPAD. Since then, there has been a significant increase in Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Africa. In particular, total ODA flows to Africa increased from \$21.4

billion in 2002 to \$ 47.9 billion in 2010 while bilateral flows from Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members rose from \$13.4 billion to \$29.3 billion over the same period. Despite this increase, current aid flows from DAC to African countries are still below the commitments made to the continent. In this regard, there is need for G8 countries to fulfill their existing commitments to Africa. The adoption of NEPAD was also a key factor in the decision of G8 summits and subsequently in meeting of the G20, thereby ensuring that African development issues remain on the global agenda (UNO, 2002).

Furthermore, NEPAD has accelerated the financing of energy projects in West Africa and Southern Africa, for instance, in Nigeria, Benin Republic, Togo inter-connection, Morocco, Algeria, Spain inter-connection financed by the African Development Bank in 2002. In addition, NEPAD has been providing funds and technical support for the preparation of African Agriculture Development Programme and environment bankable project. In fact, the World Bank approved the financing of other components of the West African power at \$100 million (Hammed, 2006).

NEPAD has also achieved in compelling the United Nations to take actions to enhance coherence in the provision of support to Africa. Since the endorsement of NEPAD in United Nations General Assembly Resolution 57/7 of 4th November, 2002, it has become widely accepted as the framework and mechanism through which the United Nations and the international community should support Africa's development efforts (Hammed, 2006). The United Nations has equally established the Regional Consultation Mechanism (RCM), thereby enhancing coherence as well as coordination in the provision of support to Africa (AEC, 2002). It should be noted that membership of the Regional Consultation Mechanism is not limited to United Nations agencies. In particular, regional organisations like African Development Bank and African Regional Economic Committees (RECs) are now members of RCM.

Another great achievement of NEPAD is that, it has made some progress in the area of agriculture through the comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). NEPAD is slowly laying the foundation for higher agricultural productivity and output in Africa. As a result of CAADP, African Countries have achieved the 10 percent target budget allocation to agricultural stipulated in CAADP and nine African countries have achieved the target average annual growth rate of agricultural output of at least 6 percent (NEPAD, 2011). NEPAD has also taken measures to develop infrastructural in Africa which is momentous for agricultural development in the continent, for instance, the programme for infrastructural Development in Africa Union in Kampala, presents a coherent strategy for the development of regional and continental

infrastructure in Africa, thereby laying the foundation for higher agricultural productivity and output in Africa (UNO, 2012).

In another angle, NEPAD places major emphasis on Africa ownership, leadership and accountability. This is best expressed in the concluding Section of the framework document which states that Africa recognises that it holds the key to its non-development (The New Partnership for Africa, 2001). The African Peer Review Mechanism which is a voluntary monitoring instrument by member states of the African Union is seen as an essential feature of this new sense of ownership and accountability. Its objectives is to assess whether participating countries follow the political and economic values, codes and standards contained in Declaration of Democracy, Political, Economic and Cooperate Governance (Cilliers, 2002). APRM appeared to suggest a qualitatively different approach to African problems than previous plans and declarations. The Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee in Abuja in March 2002 approved the draft report on Good Governance and Democracy and the African Peer Review Mechanism (UNECA, 2002). The promoters of NEPAD argued that APRM is a positive and demonstrable effort to encourage African States' Commitment to good governance (Akinrimade, 2002). It was in this context that NEPAD staked its claims to being a different document from previous African declarations. For the first time in the history of the African Continent, there was a promise to self-police by the African leaders "the most significant initiative ever advocated for moving the African continent from crisis to renewal (Hope, 2002)." The idea behind APRM was to connect the African continent to the rest of the world on the basis of honesty and mutual respect with recognition of the universality of democracy, human rights and good governance (Taylor, 2005).

It has further been argued that A PRM stressed the need to generate the necessary political will to keep the core values, commitments and obligations of NEPAD and other legal instruments. The mechanism pledges to empower people and institutions within civil society to ensure an active and independent civil society that can hold government accountable to the rule of law and strict separation of powers; to promote political representatively; ensuring periodic democratic renewal of leadership; ensuring impartial; transparent and credible electoral administration and oversight system; ensuring the effective participation of women, disadvantaged groups in political and economic process; combating and eradicating corruption (Chris, 2008).

It is apposite to state here that the initial draft of the Political and Good Governance Peer Review Mechanism states the importance of "political will" to keep to core values, commitments and obligations on democracy, human rights and good governance. It recognises the need to empower people and institutions of civil society so as to ensure an active and independent civil society that can hold government accountable to the people.

It stresses the need to adhere to principles of constitutional democracy, the rule of law and the strict separation of powers, including the protection of the independence of the judiciary (NEPAD, 2002).

APRM hopes to ensure the periodic democratic renewal of leadership in line with the principle that the leaders should be subjected to fixed terms in office. It is committed to the freedom of expression inclusive of a guaranteed free media. For those who work in electoral administration, particularly, the peer review process, commits those signed-up members to ensuring impartial, transparent and credible electoral administration and oversight system (NEPAD, 2002).

It promotes a dedicated, honest and efficient civil services and wishes to establish oversight institutions providing necessary surveillance and to ensure transparency and accountability by all layers of government. It is strongly in favour of creation and strengthening of democratic institutions and instruments (NEPAD, 2002).

The economic and corporate Governance Peer Review mechanism on its part goes beyond just neo-liberal economic and fiscal dictates. It recognises that good political governance as a condition for good economic and corporate good governance. It states that the ability of a state to deliver on its promises is key factor. The peer review singles out a number of areas in need of institutional reform. These include administration and civil services; strengthening parliamentary oversight; promoting participatory decision-making; adopting effective measures to combat corruption and embezzlement; and undertaking judicial reforms. It states that the key factors that enhance good governance of economy are transparency, accountability, an enabling environment for private sector development and growth and institutional capacity and effectiveness (NEPAD, 2002).

NEPAD has effectively mobilised and used 130, 000 Euro from Irish aid for the planned 2012 food and security day held in October 2012 with the support of UNECA, UNDP and ACBF. It has also mobilised 137.000 in support of South Sudan Development Initiative (SSD1) and US 300.00 mobilised for Norway in support of NEPAD sustainable land and water management and agriculture climate change programme (NEPAD, 2012).

Last but not the least, NEPAD has made some progress in the area of economic and political governance (UNO, 2011). According to the 2011 African economic outlook, the economic environment in various countries in the continent has improved particularly in the areas of tax reform, access to credit facilities and enforcement of contracts. More so, in the areas of political governance, remarkable progress has been made particularly on electoral issues and process, for example, peaceful elections were held in thirteen countries

in 2010 and in twenty countries in 2011 including Nigeria in 2011 and 2015 respectively. It must be added here that APRM adopted by NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee in March 2003, has contributed to the recent improvements in economic and political governance in the continent by acting as an agency of restraint on government actions.

FAILURE OF NEPAD WITHIN FOURTEEN YEARS OF ITS FORMATION

Despite the progress that has been made so far in the implementation of the programmes and activities of NEPAD, it is becoming clear that African countries are far from achieving their ultimate goals of eradicating poverty, putting the region on a sustainable development path and halting the marginalisation of the continent in the global economy. Some of the reasons for the slow progress in achieving the overall objectives of NEPAD include: low levels of human and financial resources; capacity constraint; coordination problems between the NEPAD secretariat and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs); inadequate involvement or lack of involvement of important local stakeholders in the process; weak infrastructure; and the absence of quantifiable benchmarks for monitoring and evaluation (ECA, 2007).

There is no gain saying that late President Yar' Adua who took over the mantle of leadership from former President Olusegun Obasanjo, acceded to the fact that the election of 2007 were questionable for which reforms will be instituted to correct. Unfortunately, former president Obasanjo as one of the leading personalities behind the NEPAD initiative was fingered to have presided over these public irregularities in Nigeria for which NEPAD seeks to eliminate in local and African politics. The challenge of massive electoral fraud hitherto experienced in previous elections was significantly reduced during the 2011 and 2015 general elections. However, the unwillingness of political opponents to accept declared results after election still remains, the unresolved security challenge occasioned by the Boko-Haram sect, the present increase in political, ethnic, and religious conflicts, the growing agitations in the Niger Delta, cattle rustling, herdsman/farmers crises and the violent state reprisal are reflective of the inefficiency of the local Nigerian dispute resolution system to resolve the prevailing internal state contradictions. It is also symbolic of the high distrust the people have toward the state and its dispute resolution mechanism to adjudicate on contentious issues fairly and justly among contending parties in the polity.

The growing violent eruptions have severe consequences for the government's drive to court direct foreign investment. This is because businesses and entrepreneurs need a safe and secure environment without which investment and production cannot be effectively enhanced. Increasing conflict situation, the slow pace of combating corruption in Africa, brain drain, poor remunerations structure, the continuing paradox of strong

policies and weak implementation, poor infrastructure, poor information follow and continued civil society opposition to reforms, global financial meltdown, low response from external commitment, and the challenge of self-interest inherent in globalisation interactions are forces working against the success of NEPAD. Against these impediments, it is doubtful whether NEPAD will be able to generate new and better economic investment and breaks the strong vested interest even those found amongst the members of governments themselves that previously held back Africa political and economic progress (Thomson, 2007).

Another failure of NEPAD is the continued violent eruption arising from the abounding contradictions inherent in Africa's political process and political power acquisition which does not allow for a peaceful political transition which poses a genuine impediment to the democratic aspiration embedded in the NEPAD agenda. Nonetheless, is the challenge posed by the sit tight model of governance, personality cult and the autocratic pattern of ruler ship of most Africa politicians (Nigeria not precluded). This has grossly undermined the principle of the rule of law and popular participation for which true democracy principle espouses. These characters according to scholar were not distant from many other African countries. The electoral transition processes in African countries were marred by irregularities as it were evident by the voiding of some electoral sits for which reelection were ordered by the various election tribunals established after the 2007 elections in Nigeria and many other African countries (Albert and Yahaya, 2012).

It has been observed that the reason why NEPAD sates have pledged to good governance is an attempt to attract aids and foreign investment Thomson (2007) of the \$64b, \$54b will come from external donors. This raises the fear that NEPAD will become conditionality in another name (Thomson, 2007). The issue of sponsorship has been complicated by the present severe bits of global financial crisis. This problem has limited the commitment of donors to the NEPAD cause. This is because currently, less than 10 per cent of additional aid commitments made by donor countries is hampering the progress of NEPAD implementation. Significant also to the problem of NEPAD is the question of ownership as Chukwuemeka (2008) noted that NEPAD's pedigree has generated so much enthusiastic comments; it is "African-owned." But this is a moot point. Even as Melber (2004); Leidan (2003) also strongly noted that NEPAD was developed without the people. Rehabeam (2004) opined that the NEPAD agenda has been tested and failed so far. To her, this failure emanates from the failure of President Thabo Mbeki to condemn Zimbabwe on its internal crises as requested by major donor countries, Rwanda's military involvement in Democratic Republic of Congo conflict for which NEPAD group kept mute and the removal of the political and human right review from NEPAD. Thomson (2007) skepticism is drawn from whether African countries will be able to generate new economic

investment on the continent and break the vested interests that created the problem of structural inequity that is detrimental to its progress.

The thrust of NEPAD's agenda was to assist individual African nation to stem the tide of globalisation and ensure a process of balanced relationship. On the contrary, even developed nations have not been able to successfully control the influences of globalisation although some of its features are amenable to their control. On the part of African nations, the inability to effectively organise internally, their government and affiliate institutions of government constitutes a vital stumbling block to the attainment of that goal. To turn the table of marginalisation in the globalisation interaction, requires fundamentally, the element of national hegemony. Hegemony gives a country the power, this power enables a country to impose its values on other participating nations through the carrot and stick methods of influence. There no doubting the fact that Africa does not have the hegemony to influence decisions about globalisation flows (Ayo, 2005).

CONCLUSION

NEPAD represents a home-grown initiative for development based on a set of core principles that have been embraced by the national, regional and international public opinions been pre-conditions for renewal of the African continent. Potentially, it constitutes the most important advance in African development policy during the last decade. Undoubtedly, it is an ambitious programme and represents perhaps one last hope for Africa to reverse its slide into irrelevance. A new generation of leaders have been the light and have agreed that sufficient will exist to find African solutions to African's problems by setting specific parameters for commitments to good governance, entrenchment of peace and security, democracy, sound economic management, productive partnership, national ownership and sustainable development.

These new leaders shared the goal of ending the patrimonialism, corruption and instability that have epitomised post-colonial Africa. For the most parts, they are pragmatists favouring free markets and private sector-led growth. Under the previous generation of leaders, the continent grew poorer with every passing decade. This current crop of new leaders aspired to reverse this decline, end Africa's marginalisation and consolidate new political systems of responsive and accountable government that respect human rights, rule of law and respect for codes of standard of good governance that would stimulate sustainable development in Africa which would be impossible to rescind by future leaders who may not be similarly enlightened. Through the programme, Africans leaders are making commitment to the African people and the world together in rebuilding the continent. It has been revealed in this paper that NEPAD is a pledge by the African

leaders to promote peace and stability, democracy, sound economic management and people-centred development and to hold each other accountable in terms of the agreement outlined in the programme.

The paper traced the etymology of NEPAD and objectives of its formation by African leaders. It examined the concept of development within NEPAD and assessment of progress made by NEPAD since its formation in the last fourteen years in the area of development in Africa. The paper further highlighted the achievements and failure of NEPAD since its being in 2001. It is the opinion of this writer that NEPAD will not be able to accomplish most of its set objectives, core principles and its goals unless effort is made by the promoters of the initiative:

- a. to carry out enlightenment on the formation and objectives, principles, goals and priority areas of NEPAD among African people;
- b. to provide fund for the projects and programmes of NEPAD both at countries and continental levels. Particularly, budget must be set aside for the African Peer Review Mechanisms to enable all African countries to participate in the review process;
- c. to provide for the fundamental human needs to avoid conflicts that are been caused by lack of provision of fundamental human needs like food, water and shelter as well as complex needs for safety, security, self-esteem and personal fulfillment;
- d. to make provision for capacity building to ensure good governance and sustainable development;
- e. to address the heavy burden that diseases, particularly, HIV/AIDs, tuberculosis and malaria placed on the continent's social and economic development;
- f. to strengthen the private sector and attract more foreign direct investment and for African to increased their attention to the development of domestic debt and equity market; and
- g. to ensure the conversion of the promises of the highly industrialised countries into concrete actions such as significant increase in development assistance flows, harmonisation and simplification of aid procedures.

AUTHOR RIGHTS & COPYRIGHT

The author(s) of this article under Uganda Pentecostal University Journal of Sustainable Development reserve the right of ownership and consent shall be granted through them to rewrite, duplicate or sale it for commercial purposes.

FUNDING OF THE RESEARCH.

This research has not been funded by any institution. The Authors conducted the research utilizing their own funds.

REFERENCES

- Albert, T. A., & Yahaya, M. A. (2012). *NEPAD and good governance question in Nigeria: Progress and challenges*. JORIND, 10(37), 238. Retrieved from www.transcampus.org/journals, www.ajol.info/journals/jorind
- Akinrimade, S. (2002). NEPAD: The new partnership for Africa's development. *Bulletin of the Conflict, Security and Development Group*, 15(3).
- Ayo, A. (2005). International relations. In R. Anifowose & F. Enemuo (Eds.), *Elements of politics* (p. 332). Sam Iroanusi Publications.
- Cilliers, J. (2002). *NEPAD's peer review mechanism* (No. 64). Institute for Security Studies.
- Chris, L. (2008). NEPAD: What is it? What is missing? *SARPN-African Commentaries on NEPAD*. Retrieved from <http://www.sarpn.org/documents/d000550/page2.php>
- Chukwuemeka, C. (2008). Can NEPAD harness the African diaspora's development efforts? *AFFORD*. Retrieved from www.afford.uk.org
- Economic Commission for Africa. (2007). *Challenges and prospects in implementation of NEPAD*. Report by the RCM-African Secretariat.
- Finance for NEPAD Conference. (2002, April). Dakar, Senegal.
- Hammed, A. H. (2006). *Challenges facing the proper implementation of the new partnership for Africa's development* (LL.M long essay, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife).
- Hammed, A. H. (2013). *Good governance, peace and security within the new partnership for Africa's development: Need for a legal framework* (Ph.D. thesis, University of Ilorin).
- Hope, K. (2002). From crisis to renewal: Toward successful implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development. *African Affairs*, 101, 397.
- Melber, H. (2004). *NEPAD, Africa, and the wider world*. Background paper presented at ASC Seminar Series on Africa and its External Relations, Leiden, Netherlands.
- Michael, P. T. (1989). *Economic development in the Third World* (4th ed., pp. 89–90). Longman.
- NEPAD. (2001). *The new partnership for Africa's development document*.
- NEPAD. (2002, February). *Democracy and political governance initiative*. Pretoria, South Africa.
- Oyovbaire, S. (2008). *Governance and politics in Nigeria: The IBB and OBJ years* (T. A. Albert & M. A. Yahaya, Eds., p. 241). Spectrum Book Limited.

- Oyewande, O. (2004). NEPAD: Another cap in hand economic programme. Retrieved from <http://www.ippanigeria/2004/200411.htm>
- Randle, J. K. (2003, July 3). Accountability, transparency, and sanity are preferred options. *The Guardian* (Lagos), p. 3.
- Rehabeam, S. (2004). NEPAD and African civil society. *The Namibian Economic Policy Research Unit (NEPRU), NEPRU Working Paper, 94, 7.*
- Seers, D. (1969). The meaning of development. *International Development Review, 19*(3).
- Sulaiman, Z. (2010). *New partnership for Africa's development (NEPAD): Problems and prospects* (Undergraduate project, Department of History and International Studies, Kogi State University, Anyigba).
- Taylor, I. (2005). *Can NEPAD succeed without prior political reform?* Danish Institute for International Studies.
- Thomson, A. (2007). *An introduction to African politics* (2nd ed.). Routledge.
- United Nations. (2011, December). *NEPAD: Building foundation for a new Africa renewal.*
- United Nations. (2011, July 28). *The new partnership for Africa's development: Ninth consolidated progress report on implementation and international support.* Report of the Secretary-General (A/66/202). Retrieved from http://unctad.org/meeting/en/sessionalDocuments/tubex55d3_en.pdf
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2002). *The new partnership for Africa development: Performance, challenges and the role of UNCTAD.* Trade and Development Board. Retrieved from http://unctad.org/meetings/en/seasonaldocuments/tdbe_x55d3-en.pdf
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2010). *Economic development in Africa report 2010: South–South cooperation: Africa and new form of development partnership.* United Nations Publications.
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (2002).

UPU Journal of Sustainable Development (UPUJSD) Open Access

UPUJSD is a peer-reviewed academic journal dedicated to advancing research and dialogue on sustainability across diverse disciplines. Published by Uganda Pentecostal University, the journal provides a platform for scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to share innovative ideas, empirical research, and critical analyses that contribute to achieving sustainable development goals.

Journal Themes

- Sustainable agriculture and food security
- Artificial intelligence in sustainable development
- Renewable energy and environmental sustainability
- Community development and social entrepreneurship
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies
- Sustainable urban planning and infrastructure development
- Gender equality and social inclusion
- Legal frameworks supporting sustainable development
- Any aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Submit your Article [here](#)