THE 774 COUNTY ECONOMIC GROWTHS AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN (EGDP-774): A TRANSITION FROM SECTORAL TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IN NIGERIA

Background

Over the period of colonization and independence in Nigeria, sectoral development plan has been used in Economic Growth and Development Planning in Nigeria (Ibietan & Ekhosuehi, 2013); neglecting the territorial dimension of development. The main sectors used for the sectoral planning include agriculture, manufacturing, solid minerals, services, construction and real estate, oil and gas.

Sectoral development planning is planning deeply based on various economic activities of Primary, Secondary, Tertiary and Quaternary Economic sectors. Its major concerns are linear planning and certain infrastructural facilities in various sectors in the economy. Sectoral Planning focuses on formulating policies for a number of key sectors which are chosen for their labor-absorbing capacity, technological contribution to the economy, or earning of foreign exchange. It is directed at addressing both weak economic performance and large scale job losses (distressed sectors). The major characteristics of sectoral development plan are;

1. The planning and development of particular sectors of economy.
2. It is a systematic approach.
3. It is more subjective.
4. It is much useful in developed nations.

However, Territorial development planning is development rooted over space or territory. It is a kind of regional planning where planning is made on certain physical as well as socio-cultural and economical region. In simple term, it is referred to as **Local development**. In territorial development planning, regions (LGAs) are seen as separate economies. The major characteristics of territorial development are (Ali, 2009);

1. It focuses mainly on the overall development of region.
2. Places emphasis on Socio-economic development of the region.
3. Development plans vary from one region to other.
4. It is more objective.
5. This is much applicable in developing as well as underdeveloped countries.

Having in mind that sectoral planning is best for developing countries, one of the major setbacks of the sectoral planning in Nigeria is that it was written by people who do not understand the system itself and how it is run. Hence, we need people who understand the system from the grass root levels in other to develop it. Another drawback of this sectoral planning initiative is the imbalance in development amongst sectors where some sectors receive more attention than the others. Adversely, this has also led to a disparity in the distribution of resources in which growth has been concentrated in the coastal areas and capital thereby yielding limited benefits to the rest of the country. As such, successes in sectoral development only led to increase in poverty in the rural areas. Thus, proper economic growth and development cannot be achieved using the sectoral approach.

With regards to the problems of sectoral planning, nothing has been done to solve the problem because the problems have been viewed from economic problems rather than type of developmental plan. Therefore, instead of changing the type of developmental plan upgrades of sectoral development planning where made.

The need for EGDP-774 at this moment is evident. As the Country is currently recovering from economic recession where cities, towns, rural municipalities, and the citizens face severe challenges. There is a widespread shortage of opportunities for decent work, increased poverty, homelessness and growing social and income inequality. Based on the most recent preferred survey of the National Statistics Bureau (NBS), extreme poverty in 2009 is estimated at 53.5 percent using the international poverty line of $1.90 per person per day (2011 PPP)(World Bank Group, 2020). In 2018, poverty was projected at 50 percent indicating little improvement in incomes of the bottom half of the population over the past decade. Displacement of rural people and crime rates are rapidly increasing.

Overcoming sectoral economic development approaches offers more opportunities of including the poor in the development process taking into account that the price for progress is a high one. It requires more complex programs, more coordinated effort by all those involved and thus higher costs.

Territorial Economic Development Plan is the total effort needed to create jobs and foster well-being of citizens. At the local scale, there is capacity to promote participation by all sectors of the society and to launch economic development initiatives that are inclusive, sustainable, and life-enhancing.

TERRITORIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN (TEDP)

The first dimension of territorial approaches is that of the promotion of the decentralized territorial units(*UCLG,* 2016). Decentralization in this case becomes an attempt for State reconstruction in such a way that the local can serve the global. The local that is set up is then a new version of a combination of vertical networks between local elites and global elites. TEDP tries to eliminate or at least reduce the difference in incomes between various regions. The integration of the poor into the production process is focused upon, enabling them to have access to income-bound goods and public services. TEDP, as far as this concept is practiced, means the overcoming of sectoral efforts without excluding them completely. TEDP is a program, i.e. a group of projects (in different sectors), in one area. This is based on the knowledge that poverty is caused by deficiencies in the system and not of individual deficiencies.

Thus, the first importance of the local consists in creating a new alliance between national elites and local elites to forge ahead the development process (UCLG, 2016). The other challenge of the local is to shift the current governance mode while linking the management of public affairs to different geographical levels to ensure better regulation of relationships within society. Doing so would value the different forms of community vitality and would recreate the foundations of national pride among people scarred by the severe impacts of the corrupt and unpopular political systems. Without that pride, it will be difficult that people give as much of themselves to innovate and actively participate in the work of national construction.

TEDP is based on partnerships between local authorities, the private sector, other public sector agents, and civil society, to foster local commercial activity. This can take many forms, including social economy enterprises responding to the needs of marginalized groups, as well as micro, small, and medium enterprises. TEDP plan integrates effects across sectors, developing both the formal and informal economy, with a view to realizing community goals, such as better-quality jobs, reduced poverty, environmental sustainability, and the inclusion of marginalized groups, notably women, youth, people with disabilities, and indigenous peoples. TEDP initiatives vary widely, depending on local needs and conditions. They may include the development of infrastructure, research and innovation, skill training, attraction of new investment, technical and financial services to new and existing enterprises, supportive procurement policies, and support for marketing.

There are several reasons why EGDP-774 plan is indispensable to the process of economic and growth development of Nigeria, beginning with the traditional roles of Local Government Areas (LGAs). LGAs must provide a secure and stable environment in which enterprises can flourish. They are responsible for physical infrastructure – roads, water supply, waste management, information and communication technologies – all of which are necessary prerequisites to economic activity. LGAs also address the needs of their citizens for public health, education, housing, local transportation services, cultural and recreational facilities, child care, and other public goods and services that are essential to nurturing a healthy, skilled, and reliable workforce.

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Policies to enhance Territorial Economic Development

Here, we will talk on, how the policies of the EGDP-774 plan will be implemented and managed to achieve a sustainable economic and growth development in Nigeria.

In other to achieve a sustainable EGDP-774 plan, the following policies should be launched in each LGA:

DECENTRALIZING RESPONSIBILITY, AUTHORITY, AND CAPACITY

These can be achieved by allowing the LGAs to make economic decisions to their communities on the bases of their social and economic well-being. That is, the LGAs will make economic policies to each sector of the economic on the bases of available resources, its unique strengths, which may lie in its natural resources, its geographical location, and/or the skills of its people.

To achieve effective decentralization of responsibility for EGDP-774, upper-tier governments must establish legal frameworks that provide LGAs with clear mandates in the field of EGDP-774 and ensure that local authorities and their staff have the training and the financial resources to carry out their roles.

CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR EGDP-774

The LGAs should be given the responsibility to create the conditions in which EGDP-774 can flourish. The LGAs should be responsible for the creation and maintenance of an enabling environment in which all economic actors – investors, workers, educators, financial institutions, service providers – can make good decisions and work together to generate economic development.

In order to create an enabling environment for EGDP-774, an effective LGA should acts on several fronts: social, institutional, environmental, and economic. The nature of the conditions faced by each LGA, and the actions these conditions call for, vary widely from place to place. There are, however, several common tasks: creating municipal institutions that are transparent and accountable, fostering relationships that generate the social capital that is critical to development, protecting the integrity of the environment and the rights of workers, and, in a variety of ways, encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation to create decent jobs in the community.

Since conditions are always changing over time, an effective LGA should be constantly monitoring its environment at all scales, from global markets to national regulatory measures to neighborhood social conditions, and adjusting its responses accordingly.

BUILDING AN ALLIANCE OF PARTNERS

For the EGDP-774 to be effective, equitable, and sustainable it requires the LGA to build and maintain an alliance of partners in the community. All groups in a community who can affect EGDP-774, or who are affected by it, have a stake in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of EGDP-774 initiatives.

The LGA needs to build and maintain a good alliance with the following stakeholders although the composition of stakeholder will vary from one LGA to another, but in general it is important to include representatives of the following groups:

- The LGA itself, including the Chairman, other elected officials, and the relevant staff, the group developing the conditions for successful EGDP-774;
- National and state/provincial agency staff, as sources of advice, technical assistance, and financial resources for EGDP-774;
- The local chamber of commerce and other business associations;
- Primary producer associations: farmers and fishers;
- Labour unions and trade unions;
- Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and the informal sector, to the extent that they are organized separately from the larger businesses and associations in the community;
- Schools, universities, and other institutions of higher learning that have the capacity to provide analysis of the local economy, training in technical skills, and input to EGDP-774 planning and evaluation;
- Financial institutions: banks, credit unions, and microfinance institutions (MFIs);
- NGOs and community organizations that are active in LGA;

- International development partners that are working in the community;
- Newspapers and other media, to keep the public informed;
- Any social groups in the community with a strong stake in LGA because of unemployment or other forms of exclusion, for example youth, indigenous people, or ethnic minorities;
- Other persons of influence in the community, such as traditional authorities and religious leaders, as well as groups representing the interests of women, to promote popular participation, to increase awareness of groups experiencing exclusion, and to strengthen the transparency and accountability of the EGDP-774 process.

These alliances need to be created early in the process of developing a community wide strategy for EGDP-774 program in the LGA, and maintained constantly. They build trust and form the basis of long-term partnerships. The aim is to engage these partners in the creation of a strategic plan to which they are fully committed, to ensure that the strategy is more than just a plan on paper.

ESTABLISHING STRUCTURING AND MANAGING THE EGDP-774

Economic Experts (EEs) are needed to launch the consultation process leading to the creation of a strategic plan for EGDP-774 in the LGA. The Economic Experts are to be supervised by a group of stakeholders. These stakeholders may serve as the governing body of the EEs, or it may be an advisory body or reference group; this decision will depend on local circumstances. The function of this forum is to give general direction to the EEs, ensuring that the interests of all members of the community are represented and addressed.

The key functions of the Economic Experts (EEs) are to:

- Convene the stakeholders and lead them in the planning process;
- Serve as the staff to the stakeholders;
- Conduct research and provide information to the stakeholders;
- Coordinate the action plan devised by the stakeholders;
- Monitor and evaluate progress and report to the stakeholders;
- In some cases, the EEs itself may also implement EGDP-774 projects in the LGA

Although an action plan assigns tasks to a wide range of individuals and organizations, the Economic Experts are responsible for coordination, and it may take on many of these tasks itself. These include such matters as: market research and feasibility studies, promotion and branding of the community, liaison between the LGA and the business community, and raising funds for EGDP-774 plan, especially for social enterprises that may not have access to normal commercial sources.

ENCOURAGING ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ATTRACTING INVESTMENT

The LGA would establish Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) plans to targets businesses already established and contributing in the form of jobs, income, and taxes. A BRE program can help to expand employment and income, or at least prevent their loss. The EEs may approach this by establishing business improvement areas, by fostering clusters of businesses that benefit from the synergies of proximity, and by conducting market research.

BRE helps in supporting people who wish to create a new MSME (micro, small, or medium-sized enterprise). Staffed by professional counselors, they assist with such matters as feasibility studies, market surveys, business plans, licensing, and access to capital. They may also offer workshops and seminars, especially for young entrepreneurs.

The LGAs should base their investment attraction strategy on the particular strengths of their community. Whatever the endowments, however, to be successful it is usually necessary to be proactive in creating conditions favorable to new investment. The LGAs have to adapt to tax reductions policy so as to compete with other LGAs to attract outside investors.

NURTURING INNOVATION

LGAs would create innovation nurturing institute, which will be in charge of market research on goods and services in other to make shift innovative. It begins by asking the business community to submit challenging problems that they have been unable to solve by themselves, in other to look for solutions to them.

LGAs should bring local institutions with a capacity for research – schools, colleges, universities, science and research parks – together with enterprises in the community that have the capacity to bring new innovations to market. Also, LGAs should promote the creation of business clusters and incubators to promote innovation through the synergies of enterprises working together, sharing resources, and learning from one another.

PROMOTING THE GREEN ECONOMY

Concentrating in promoting green economy, should be one of the major priorities of the LGAs through: improving energy efficiency, developing sustainable public transportation systems, recycling waste, treating wastewater, reducing air pollution, and limiting greenhouse gas emissions. LGAs can support these new industries by adopting policies that link environmental sustainability with local economic development in their territories, for example by mandating increased use of renewable energy and green technology in their own facilities.

MITIGATING POVERTY, INEQUALITY, AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

LGAs can support and strengthen enterprises in the informal economy in many ways in other to mitigate poverty, inequality and social exclusion. Some of which are determining which interventions will be most effective by ask the informal economy participants themselves. This can be done most effectively by including its representatives in EGDP-774 planning processes. LGAs and their community-based partners can extend technical services to informal enterprises, developing their skills, upgrading their technology, and assisting them to connect with other enterprises as upstream suppliers or downstream distributors, retailers, or waste processors. They can also provide direct support to workers in the informal economy through health and education services and by upgrading the physical infrastructure– roads, markets and other public spaces, water supply, sanitation – that facilitates informal enterprises.

LGAs should include social economy enterprises in their planning processes and support them with start-up funding, technical assistance, skill training, and, where legal, preferential treatment in procurement contracts. The enterprises themselves, once established, invest their surplus in training, quality improvements, and expansion of their services.

FOSTERING LOCAL CULTURE

Enhancing cultural policy in LGAs, to encourage and protect cultural activities in their jurisdictions. In a narrow sense, culture refers to artistic activities such as drama, literature, painting, sculpture, photography, music, and dance. In a larger sense, culture includes the broader "cultural industries," including radio, television, film, music recording, book publishing, and new media. LGAs can typically play a major role in encouraging and regulating these industries in their jurisdictions, not only for economic reasons but also to defend and promote the identity of their people.

THE SOCIAL ECONOMY, SOLIDARITY ECONOMY AND THE THIRD SECTOR (NGOS)

The LGAs will develop a Social Economic System which is distinguished by its democratic organization of labor or consumption. Cooperatives, labor societies, and other legal forms serve the same principle of economic democracy in the organization of the company. Services and consumer cooperatives also are in line with this principle, starting by the partnership for commodity consumption but getting even to the association to generate cooperative banking projects.

The LGAs will develop Solidarity economic systems such as fair-trade forums, trade unions and Social Centers which aims to build production, distribution, consumption and financing relationships based on justice, cooperation, reciprocity, and mutual aid.

Furthermore, the LGAs will give a room for the existence of other "nonprofit" entities (associations, foundations) which, however, serve the community by transforming productive activities or services. The NGOs would be considered as part of the famous "third sector". The fact that they are "non-profit" institutions means that do not share profits among its member. But this condition of "non-profit" entities, does not exclude them from being major actors in local economic development.

Therefore, social economy enterprises, solidarity economy and "non-profit (associations and foundations) entities represent a great opportunity and great potential allies of LGAs in driving EGDP-774 strategies.

EGDP-774 AND THE GENDER FOCUS

It is essential to include Women in their Local Development Planning as it is an approach that is normally excluded in frameworks. Therefore, the EGDP-774 will also focus on the role of women in entrepreneurial initiatives of MSMEs, social economy, solidarity economy, non-profit organization or informal economy is very large. These weaknesses and opportunities will be considered when addressing gender issues in the local economic development proposals, and generate tools from LGAs and strategic plans.

CREATION OF EVALUATION MECHANISMS FOR EGDP-774

Another, important thing to do, is measuring the success of EGDP-774, which can be measured through the number of local entities incorporated and consolidated, the degree of participation of actors in the different initiatives, resources contributions made by the different local actors to these entities. The degree of private and public involvement in local economic development initiatives will create a broad evaluation mechanism.

The Federal Government would, measure the efficiency of institutional coordination between the various LGAs and the sectors in each LGA to promote national economic growth and development.

Objectives

Primary Objectives

The main objective is to create a strategy for decentralization of the economy (Chigbu, 2013); switching from sectoral development planning to territorial (local) development planning (at the 774 LGAs Level) for the next Economic Development and Growth Plan. The development plan will treat each of the LGAs as separate economies who are interdependent on each other. This would be achieved using the **CIRCULAR FLOW OF INCOME** as the model.

This initiative would be achieved through the following:

1. Creating a framework for territorial economic development based on Local Government Areas (LGAs)
2. Generating diverse instruments, to achieve circular flow of income in LGAs
3. Building an Institution & Capacity to ensure Local Development Implementation

OUTPUTS

LEGAL FRAMEWORKS AND DECENTRALISED ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

When this devolution is planned well, implemented efficiently, and managed competently, development plan for each of the 774 LGAs will be created. LGAs will show themselves capable of taking on additional responsibilities and handling them as well as being the most appropriate tier of government to provide leadership and coordination, complementing the efforts of national governments.

COMPREHENSIVE LGA-BASED DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

Furthermore, allowing LGAs to make economic decisions will provide leadership in job creation and economic development in their jurisdictions (UCLG, 2016). As the public institutions closest to the people, LGAs are the most appropriate agents to convene all of the local economy's stakeholders; the chamber of commerce, the representatives of micro, small, and medium enterprises, trade and labour unions, primary producers, education and training institutions, agents of the departments and ministries of other levels of government, non-governmental organizations and international development partners active in the community, as well as the representatives of those who are unemployed, marginalized because of their youth, gender, disability, or ethnic origin, or who are struggling to survive in the informal economy. LGAs are the best-placed initiators, catalysts, and drivers of processes that engage these stakeholders in visioning the future, designing strategies, and implementing economic development initiatives.

Bringing decision making and service provision closer to the citizens can make authorities more accountable to their electorate, improve the relevance of services and public goods to local needs, give local residents greater opportunity for participation in the decisions that affect their lives, and thereby build democracy and political stability.

SCOPE OF THE WORK

To achieve a Territorial Economic and Growth Development in an LGA (EGDP), the following activities are to be performed;

S/N	ACTIVITIES	DESCRIPTION	DURATION
1	**Inception meeting with LGAs Stakeholders**	In these meetings the stakeholders will highlight the socio-economic structure (brief history (if time permit), social norms and values and sources of income) of the LGA, to the Economic Experts. Also, it is essential to inform them on the main sectors of the economic, highlighting achievements and drawback of the sectors. Lastly, the stakeholders will highlight expected outcome for the plan in each sector and how it should create growth and development in the economy.	one week
2	**Economic Survey**	To achieve the desired objectives economic survey will be carried out, using the theory of circular flow of income, i.e. the four-sector circular flow which shows the interaction between the labour or factor market, financial market and the goods or output market. In which the major participants are; households, business sector, government and foreign sector. The economy will be monitored to identify what is available and what's not. Finding out where the development issues, challenges and problems are and check for the development needs.	Four weeks
3	**Development of EGDP for the LGA**	After conducting the economic survey, the EGDP planning team will sit and develop the plan, taking into consideration the available sectors of the economy and it needs.	Eight weeks
4	**Presentation of EGDP to the LGA stakeholders**	Presentation of the proposed plan to the LGA stakeholders, to see whether it will enhance growth and development.	One weeks
5	**Presentation of EGDP at the National Level (Ministry of Budget and National Planning)**	Presentation of the proposed plan to Ministry of Budget and National Planning, to checkmate it with others LGAs with same socio-economic structure and final validation.	One week

BENEFICIARIES & EXPECTED IMPACT

Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of the EDGP-774 initiatives are;

1. Citizenry: As this is geared towards improving the standard of living of the entire populace; All age group will benefit tremendously as there would be wealth creation, employment opportunities, improved education, improved healthcare systems, better provision of basic amenities, Effective governance etc.
2. Local businesses (MSMEs): This initiative shall encourage local entrepreneurs and Micro, Small, or Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs), drive innovation, build network (financing and collaboration), helps provide market linkages, enhance productivity and income and as well attract Foreign Investment to their businesses.
3. Foreign Investors: A clear legal and regulatory framework would be set up to encourage private investors and strengthen local governments' capacity to negotiate with them when promoting local public goods.
4. Financial Institutions: Many financial institutions shall be set up as there shall be a continuous flow of income generation leading to savings and investment by the citizenry.
5. Migrants: People who migrate for the purposes of employment and local economic improvement.
6. Public & Private institutions.

Expected Impacts:

1. National Development
2. Creation of Employment
3. Infrastructural Development
4. Institutional Development: In terms of Schools, Health care Systems, Creation of Industries, Small and Medium Scale Businesses
5. Socio-economic development- Improved society with developments in technology i.e. making new discoveries and practical inventions that boost productivity.
6. Create Equal opportunities for Local sectoral development.
7. Reduction in violence and crime rate
8. Foreign Investment
9. Reduction in Urban migration levels: This will reduce the rate at which indigenes from the rural areas migrate to urban areas for the purpose of greener pastures.
10. Utilization of Resources: This will boost the utilization of resources such as improving human productivity and utilizing natural resources
11. Political stability
12. Interregional Competition.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The following carried out and managed by the following personnel:

LGA Stakeholders: Ten LGA stakeholders will be in charge of supervising the project in the LGA. The stakeholders should include; The LGA Chairman, two representatives of the Traditional ruler (or the traditional ruler himself), heads of various economic sectors in the LGA, representatives of Labour union and representatives of foreign and local investors.

Economic Experts: The Economic Experts are the ones in charge of the entire project; they are involved in economic survey, development of EGDP-774, and presentation of the plan, to both the LGA stakeholders and National stakeholders (Ministry of Budget and National Planning). There should five Economic Experts in each LGA.

Research Personnel: They work under the supervision of the Economic Experts; they are involved in economic survey, as well as the development of EGDP-774 in the LGA level. These Research personnel are professionals from different field, mostly economist. They should be twenty in number.

National Stakeholders: The Economic Experts from all LGAs are to present the EGDP Plan to the Ministry of Budget and National Planning for the final evaluation of the project. These stakeholders include The Honorable Minister of the Ministry of Budget and National Planning, Permanent Secretary and Directors in the ministry.

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