The Emerging Roles of Diaspora in the Restructuring of Nigerian State

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ABSTRACT

The changing world economic fortunes as affected the Third World countries has brought about various Structural Adjustment Programmes by the World Bank and other International organisations to cushion its effect on these countries. Over the years, the economic progress of these countries remained dampened and even got worse while at the same time, the richer countries became richer. In these circumstances a number of programmes, projects and methods have been designed to bring about development and turn things around for these countries and their regions. Poverty has been the obvious indicator of the hopelessness of the people of these regions of which Africa is said to have the highest number of such poverty-stricken countries and people living below the poverty level. Migration especially of people of these countries to oversee countries such as the USA, Europe by the people of this region is viewed as opportunities to alleviate the suffering of families by the remittances the migrants send to their families back home. In recent times, researches have confirmed the importance of remittances by the Africans in Diaspora. In fact, such remittances have exceeded official development assistance and Foreign Direct Investments as the Diasporas are becoming a vocal voice by their achievements in the countries of their abode which by and large they are beginning to be of immense assistance to their countries of natural birth by the positive contributions they make. This is basically the focus of this paper to examine the roles of Nigerians in the Diaspora in addressing the developmental problems through their competencies and financial capabilities in the restructuring of the Nigerian state economically, socially and politically.

Keywords: Diaspora, remittances, grass roots, development, Foreign Direct Investment

1. INTRODUCTION

Diaspora which is the result of age long migration of people around the world assumed a notable feature in the contemporary political economic changes driven by globalization. According to Fayomi (2013), migration of people across national borders and continents is a precursor to diaspora. Until recently, the phenomenon of Diaspora or its impact in various features has not been appreciated. But diaspora has come to be a major force in the international political economy.
In particular, its impact can no longer be down played when a group of countries depend on the contributions arising from the remittances received through this avenue. Beyond remittances, countries such as Ireland, Israel, China, India, Korea and Mexico all benefit from the economic strength of their diasporas and built institutional arrangements for engaging these communities. These diaspors have acted as sources of financial and intellectual energies for the economic and technological development of their homelands (Alli: 2007).

In other words, migration which arose from mass migration around the world, greatly affected Africa. In fact, Africa has a huge diaspora population especially in the developed western countries of Europe and America dating from forced slave trade to voluntary migration in search of greener pasture. Whichever form of migration, the African diaspora refers to the totality of people of African descent resident outside the shores of Africa (Babawale: 2008). This paper therefore is focused on the discovery of the great role and the impact of the contributions of African Diaspora to the political and economic development of African continent in particular, the restructuring of the Nigerian State.

The first part is entitled from migration to diaspora; the changing features of diaspora, will focus on conceptual clarifications and aspects of theoretical issues pertaining to migration and Diaspora. This will flow into the second part devoted to contemporary perspectives of diaspora. The third part will dwell on diaspora and links/connections with homeland or country of origin and part four will highlight economic importance and transformative impact to the political and economic restructuring of the Nigerian State. It will be rounded up with conclusions and recommendations.

2. FROM MIGRATION TO DIASPORA: THE CHANGING FEATURES OF DIASPORA-CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL APPRAISAL

The term Diaspora cannot be adequately conceptualized without its antecedent the migration. In the case of Africa which is our focus, it can be stated that slave trade was the origin of African Diaspora. According to (Adetugbo: 2001) the dispersion of Africans, especially during the trans-Atlantic slave trade has led to the establishment of African Communities in many parts especially in the western world. Thus today, we find African communities in Europe, America, the Caribbean and even Latin America. The spread of African culture has brought about economic and cultural development of people outside Africa (Babawale: 2008) which for a very long time has not been used to the advantage or benefit of Africa unlike the Indians, the Irish and the Asians, over the years as we shall find out in this paper. On the contrary, Africans, within and outside the continent have had difficulty exploring maximally, the inherent benefits of a mutual interaction (Babawale: 2008).

Diasporas as a word, was first used to refer to the dispersion of the Jews in Biblical times. Of course, when we talk about Diaspora, virtually every African’s mind goes to the United States of America where, apart from Nigeria, the largest concentration of African descendants reside (Adetugbo: 2001). Simply, Diaspora is a community of those living outside their country of origin (Mohamoud: 2003). However, in modern times, how do we conceive Diaspora? The term Diaspora comes from Greek words “to sow” and “over” as in the scattering of seed, and for them it meant the “seeding” of Greek colonies in distant lands. It was later associated with forced expulsion and dispersal and acquired the sense of loss and the implication of a strong desire to return (Newland & Patrick: 2004). The latter meaning has more significance to the African Diaspora in historical perspective but in modern times, Diaspora has encompassed as stated above the idea of forced and voluntary. In this respect, a definition which describes modern Diasporas as “ethnic minority groups of migrant origins residing and acting in host countries but maintaining strong sentimental and material links with their countries of origin or their homeland” (Sheffer: 2003) quoted by (Newland & Patrick: 2004). This definition exudes the idea of migratory continuity, a movement on a permanent basis or without severing relations or links with the root or origin but as noted by (Newland & Patrick: 2004) it is a type of migration implying a settled community, rather than a group of temporary migrants but maintaining link with their homeland. However, a more encompassing definition has been given by the African Union (AU) as consisting of peoples of African origin living outside the continent, irrespective of their citizenship and nationality, and who are willing to contribute to the development of the continent (AU: 2004). This is the perspective this article is situated. It is a focus that connects Diaspora with their role and contribution in the development of their country of origin.

The focus will be incomplete without also examining the impact of flow of remittance which will enable us to evaluate the Diaspora’s role in physical contribution to developmental processes. In fact, a topic such as the impact of Diaspora in economic development of their homeland cannot be treated in isolation of the most practical means of measuring such impact which is remittance.

This explanation is germane when we have seen that in this era of globalization where Diaspora Direct Investment (DDI) is not only similar to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) but is becoming more reliable and has even overtaken FDI in some developing countries according to a report by the World Bank (2008) entitled: Engaging African Diaspora in Development efforts. In this perspective, the concept of remittance will also be examined which is the most pragmatic way of appreciating the volume of financial flow in the direction of developing countries by the Diaspora (emigrant workers and their descendants).

Remittances constitute a portion of international migrant workers earnings sent back from the country of employment to the country of origin (Taiwo: 2007). Since we are concerned with roles of Diaspora which is not limited to physical cash transferred in form of remittances, let us also consider social remittances aptly defined by Levitt (2004) as the idea, behaviours, identities and social capital that flow from receiving country to sending country communities. This definition is appropriate to our study as noted by (Debass: 2008) that the Diaspora Network Alliance (DNA) a partner with USAID as an important forum is significant while many aid (foreign) agencies typically pull out during times of upheaval with the effect of reducing cash flows, the Diasporas cannot precisely because of the DNA Connection. It has grown rapidly in the past few years and now represents the largest source of foreign income for many developing countries. This is a scenario which is systematically affecting and shaping financial and economic relations globally.

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3. CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES OF DIASPORA AND LINKS TO HOMELAND

The steady changes in the international financial flows and direction has had notable impact in the developing nations. The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) which has been a huge source of foreign investment for the developing nations has dwindled seriously limiting growth and development. Alongside FDI, was the emergence of the phenomenon of remittances which started to be recognized or popularized with the coming on stream in the 1990’s of remittances providers. The Western Union being the most popular in Nigeria commenced operation in 1996 (Taiwo: 2003) slowly but steadily, the importance of diaspora began to be appreciated. In other words, Diaspora which is the totality of settled migrants in host countries alongside their remittances have become a topic that has to be looked into symbiotically in their links or contributions to the homeland.

Experiences have shown that no matter how heterogeneous or homogeneous Diaspora Communities are, they do form a living link between their countries of origin and their countries of settlement (Newland & Patrick: 2004) what then is the size of African Diaspora worldwide? According to Duke (2010) almost 200 million blacks are currently living outside Africa. There are an estimated 100 million people of African descent living in Latin America; of which 85 million in Brazil alone. In United States of America, the census concluded in 2000, gave the population of African-American at 34,658,190 (Babawale: 2008). In the same study, if we consider other people that have African heritage, the figure will not be less than 50 million individuals have African ancestry in USA alone. To this figure must be added, 23 million in the Caribbean while Europe counts about 10 million African origins (Duke: 2010). Majority of African Diasporas have their roots in West Africa as a result of the transatlantic slave trade. (Duke: 2010) Nigerians represent one of the largest groups in the African Diaspora. It is also one of the most well organized groups of Africans outside the continent (Babawale: 2001). The official figure of the Nigerians in the OECD countries is 0.6 million, of whom 0.2 million are in the USA and 0.15 in the UK (OECD, 2007) However, the Nigerian Diaspora Organisation in the UK gave the Nigerian population in that country as 1.5 million while the Nigerian officials gave 2 million as the number of Nigerians living in the USA. So far, the estimate of the total number of Nigerians living abroad range from 0.6 million persons (OECD, 2007) to 5.2 million (Migration DRC, 2007) and to 20 million according to the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Abuja (Duke, 2010) This figure can well be appreciated better when we consider the flow of remittances to Africa with particular reference to Nigeria. Firstly, worldwide remittances flow globally was estimated at $337 billion in 2007 of which $251 billion was remitted to developing countries. $33 billion to low income countries, $218 to Middle Income Countries (MICs), $140 billion to lower LICs and $78 billion to upper UICs (Taiwo: 2007) representing critical source of external funding amounting to the second largest after Foreign Direct Investment for many developing countries. Of the remittances flow worldwide, Nigeria is said to be among the top recipient countries after India, China, Mexico and Philippines (Taiwo: 2007) in the sub-Saharan Africa, Nigeria is the leading recipient. It is the largest source of foreign exchange earnings amounting to $15 billion in 2007 according to official inflow through the banking system. This does not include the informal remittances. The contribution of remittances flows to the economy can be better appreciated from Table 1. If we compare the GDP growth rate to the annual growth rate of remittances, we can see at a glance that the remittances are growing at astronomical speed. While Table II shows the flow of remittances and the importance in the overall economic growth rate. In fact, since 1996 it has been more significant than non-oil sector and portfolio exports receipts. While since 1998, it has overtaken foreign direct investment (FDI)

Table 1
Contributions of remittance flows to Nigerian economy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Remittances ($ billion)</td>
<td>1,349.8</td>
<td>1,061.7</td>
<td>2,262.3</td>
<td>6,475.8</td>
<td>10,577.1</td>
<td>15,000.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remittances per person</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>103.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population (million)</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>145</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP current basic prices (N billion)</td>
<td>7,795.8</td>
<td>9,913.5</td>
<td>11,411.1</td>
<td>14,572.2</td>
<td>18,067.8</td>
<td>22,638.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP current basic prices ($ billion)</td>
<td>6,442.8</td>
<td>7,661.1</td>
<td>8,547.6</td>
<td>11,022.8</td>
<td>14,038.7</td>
<td>17,755.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange rate (N/$)</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>129.4</td>
<td>133.5</td>
<td>132.2</td>
<td>128.7</td>
<td>127.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP growth rate</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual growth rate of Remittances</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>-21.3</td>
<td>113.1</td>
<td>186.2</td>
<td>63.3</td>
<td>41.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total remittances as a % of GDP</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The importance of diaspora continued to be felt worldwide. It is now even argued that the more diaspora population a country has the better that country can develop and meet the challenges of rapid information technological changes. In recent times, Africa has moved from paying lip service in harnessing the potentials of diaspora to the transformation of the continent that at the Africans Union Summit, Africans in the Diaspora have been identified as the sixth African region after West, East, North, South and Central African sub-regional groupings thus, making diaspora to become not only part of Africa but also active participant in all aspects of supranational governance and development (Babawale: 2008). What then are the contributions of diaspora to the political-economic and social transformation of Africa and in particular restructuring of the Nigerian State?

Table 2
Ratios of Selected Financial Flows to GDP in Nigeria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>PERSONAL HOME REMITTANCES</th>
<th>FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT</th>
<th>PORTFOLIO EXPORTS RECEIPTS</th>
<th>OIL EXPORTS RECEIPTS</th>
<th>NON-OIL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>28.2</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>28.0</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>20.7</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>38.6</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>42.3</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>31.1</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Central Bank of Nigeria

4. THE IMPACT OF DIASPORA ON THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING OF THE NIGERIAN STATE

During the last decade, the Nigerian government has moved from a position of passivity or indifference to the reality of the contributions of Diaspora to the socio-economic and political development of the country. According to Duke (2010) the Nigerian Diasporas population is critical to national development on account of at least two important factors: their pool of skills and their remittances. Many Nigerians in the Diasporas are highly skilled professionals who have contributed greatly to both their countries of residence and of origin as noted by Business Day On-line (2008) that many African leaders have of late intensified the bid to reverse the thriving mass movement of Africans out of the continent. While some have been employing subtle approaches to strengthen democratic governance and guarantee improved life chances at home, others believe in repeated calls on their nationals to meet and dialogue with them on available areas of cooperation and collaboration. It is noteworthy, that President Olusegun Obasanjo under his leadership approached the issue of Nigerian Diaspora pragmatically. He deployed enormous energy and committed huge resources into shuttle diplomacy in his bid to reach out and explore the potentials of the vast Nigerian Diaspora resource. It has also been acknowledged that through his efforts, the Nigerians in Diaspora Organization (NIDO), an umbrella body of Nigerians living abroad was formed to keep records of the country’s professionals in other countries (Babawale: 2008). Also in recognition of the uniqueness of Nigerian Diasporas to technological breakthrough, it has been suggested during Yar’Adua’s Administration, that the Nigerians in the Diaspora should be made the Nigeria’s 37th State to make it possible for government to formally involve them in policy-making and implementation.

An impact of remittance can be appreciated from the example of a Nigerian living in Netherlands. The young Nigerian-Netherlander by name Adeniyi Johnson averred in (The Voice: Oct: 2007) that he has decided to take full responsibility for the education of his sisters in Nigeria. One of his sisters has just finished an entrance examination for a computer training school on his advice. Johnson is proud that some of the
money he sends back home is being used to finance the higher education of his sister. According to Johnson, with a sound educational background, and a good working knowledge of computer, my sister will never have to leave Nigeria like I did. There will be many jobs for her in Lagos (Mahmoud: 2003). In discussing Diaspora contributions to the groupings in Home Town Associations HTAs as it is called or home improvements associations play an increasing visible role in the social, economic and political life of Nigeria.

In a report commissioned by the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD) based in the UK, gave examples of successful projects undertaken by Nigerian Diaspora. Among such projects was that of Ogidi Women Association which contributed £2,769 towards supplying clean water and refurbishing the general hospital in Ogidi Village. Besides, the Ogidi Women Association has a two-year plan from the bottom up. Before embarking on the hospital project listed above, they first commissioned a professional to record the views of the hospital staff, patients and the conditions of the ward on video. This video was used to identify and agree priorities with hospital leaders (Ndofor-Tah: 2003). Another concluded project recorded by (AFFORD) was undertaken by the Nigerian Nurses Association which spent £750 on needs assessment and donations to a rehabilitation centre for disabled children (Ndofor-Tah: 2003). There was equally the case of Buguma Internal Affairs Society which contributed £2,000 towards provision of electricity, water and town hall development. They also built a prestigious throne for the King at the cost of £500 (AFFORD). Other members of HTAs resident still in the UK and USA have donated computers and accessories to the local schools at home to help upgrade the IT training of students, refurbished classrooms, and awarded scholarships to students at secondary and tertiary institutions (Orosco, 2007).

However, the contributions of Diaspora to development transcend remittances or physical structures. As noted by (Mahmoud: 2003) that financial remittances are not the only benefits that African Diaspora transfers back to the continent. They are also active in political advocacy, charity and cultural exchange. A case to be noted is that of the Shell Company in the Ogoniland that caused world consternation after the execution of Ken Saro Wiwa by the Abacha led Junta regime in Nigeria. In reaction to the heinous murder of Ken Saro Wiwa, Nigerian in the Diaspora established an organization called ‘the movement for the survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP).’

There are also Diaspora socio-economic and political groups that are campaigning for development in Nigeria. In 1990’s the UK based Nigerian Diaspora contributed to the foundation of the pro-democracy organization, the United Democratic Front for Nigeria abroad (UDFN). There is also the National Democratic Coalition (NADECO Abroad) established as an external wing of NADECO Nigeria, which seeks to coordinate the activities of pro-democracy movements in Nigeria. There is also the example of the UK based Nigerian Association of Nigerian Communities (NANC) which initiated a campaign to grant Nigerians dual citizenship; their effort did yield positive result for qualified Nigerians which they now enjoy (Duke, 2010).

The Yar’Adua-Jonathan solidarity forum home and away, UK chapter with its headquarter in Nigeria is also an organization to be mentioned. One of its objectives is to promote the seven points’ agenda of the administration which centres on

- Power and energy
- Food and security
- Wealth creation and employment
- Mass Transportation
- Land reform
- Security
- Qualitative and functional education.

Other examples from Netherlands is about a company called convergence consulting. One of the company’s project is colours @ work; a cyber community set up in the Bijilmer district of Amsterdam. Bijilmer is popularly called the minority capital of the Netherlands, and colours @ work is intended to promote the use of modern day technology to help ameliorate socio-economic difficulties among underprivileged minority living in the inner city locations of Western world and Africa. According to the founder, a Nigerian Wole Awoala ‘colours @ work stands for knowledge transfer, creation, sharing and deployment. The objective of colours @ work is to bring internet services closer to the people in the urban centres of Africa thereby popularizing the use of internet among Africans.

The Diasporas community have also initiated strategies to enhance their involvement in the national development with particular reference to the health sector. They sent medical teams to Nigeria annually by various groups of Nigerians based in the US, to offer free medical services to local communities in Nigeria. About 100,000 patients benefitted from this initiative annually. Another set of Nigerian doctors in the USA also planned to establish modern and highly equipped hospitals in Nigeria to cater for the health need of local people (Adepoju, 2008).

The contributions of the of the Nigerian diasporas can also be appreciated from the record of the Nigeria Investment Promotion Commission, based in Nigeria which states that about 2,000 Nigerian trained outside the country in the U.S, UK, Germany, France, Russia, Canada, Japan and China return home to seek employment or business opportunities. This is a new trend in tapping from the professional potentials of Diaspora. It also corresponds to the programme of the United Nations development programme, transfer of knowledge through Expatriate Networks (TOKTEN).

Many examples of contributions of African Diaspora and Nigerian Diaspora to be specific cited but as remarked by Newland and Patrick (2004), Diaspora Strategy should not be a substitute for development policy. The two together, can produce considerable synergy for the transformation of African continent.

The roles that the Nigerians in the Diaspora can play can be enhanced by gaining experience from countries that have benefitted from the potentials of their diasporas. Among such countries is India the largest receiver of remittances between 1991 -1998 which recorded £27.4
billion (Newland and Pat. 2004) set up a level committee on its Diaspora. The committee noted that in the past several overseas investors have burnt their fingers in investing in projects in India as they wound their way through the plethora of laws and regulations that govern enterprises...

As a result, the committee recommended investor friendly environment to attract Diaspora funds and leverage the invaluable human resources.

The Indian strategy was two-pronged while they acknowledge the contribution of Remittances, they regarded it as tokens from blue collar migrants and would not be robust enough for the type of national planning India was envisaging. In addition therefore, the India Diaspora Strategy was centered on the successful professionals, technicians and entrepreneurs (Newland & Patrick: 2004).

The diasporas’ ability to impact more positively on the Nigerian society is for the government to encourage Banks to play a catalytic role in optimizing the remittance markets by focusing on improving formal channels to both senders and receivers so that the market share of “informal” or alternative remittance system is brought down through market forces (Taiwo: 2007). With the growth of fund through remittance, Nigeria could use it to raise additional funds in the world capital market as done in countries such as Brazil, El Salvador, Mexico and Turkey. Besides, Remittances flow have been found to be highly stable and predictable source of revenue which can be used as collateral and leveraged to provide alternative development finance in the economy (Taiwo: 2007). Furthermore, the role of remittance could be deepened in developing the economy if the financial industry provides households access to simple deposit account opening for recipients of remittances from abroad. With such innovation, there would be radical shift from informal to more formal channels of remittances. The available funds can then be deployed to develop the grass root institutions that serve the poor in the country such as Microfinance Banks; the small and medium scale industries (Taiwo:2007).

5. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

A fundamental truism is that no matter how heterogeneous or homogeneous diaspora communities are, they usually form a link between their countries of origin and their countries of settlement (Newland: 2004) It is that link that needs to be strengthened between Nigeria and its Diaspora in order for Nigeria to gain maximally from the rich and wealth potentials of its Diaspora.

NIDO as an umbrella of Nigerian Diaspora should be given institutional backing, the needed organizational managerial and administrative support to effectively harness the abundant potentials of Nigeria in Diaspora to the tangible development of Nigeria. the receptiveness of Diaspora to Nigerian needs will depend on the quality of their interaction with the country and the sensitivity displayed by Nigeria to their concerns. The experiences of countries that have gained profoundly from their Diaspora should be emulated like India, China, Ireland, Israel, Korea and Japan.

From the example of India, the target of government should be broad based to encompass all categories of Diaspora, professionals, technicians, entrepreneurs and blue collar. In order that the government cannot focus on remittances, rather on direct investment which will entail a multi-pronged strategy, pursuing portfolio investment, direct investment, technology transfer and trade links through the Diaspora. But like India, success does not come through miracle but through careful and methodical planning by building industries, infrastructure as well as establishing the kind of resilience and leadership that paved the way for the mass return of Nigerian Diaspora (Newland & Patrick: 2004; Babawale T 2008). In the meantime, Nigeria should perhaps set up adequate financial mechanism to manage inflows of remittances for veritable programmes that would be beneficial to the nation. And for returning migrants, an entrepreneurship development programme should be established that will prepare them for private sector needs (Taiwo, 110; 2007). It will educate them on finance and financial related issues while appropriate technology to provide efficient remittance services and focus on reducing transaction costs as well as exchange losses should be established (Taiwo, S.T: 2007)

The Nigerian Diasporas within the continent of Africa should be recognized in the developmental processes of Nigeria because attention has always been paid to the African Diasporas in the Western countries especially US and Europe (Fayomi, 2013). Thus, harnessing the contributions of African Diasporas outside of Western countries is an issue that has not been well articulated in the foreign policies of Nigeria and Ghana for the purpose of actualising the integration agenda of the ECOWAS, as well as the African Union, (Fayomi, 2013).

The Nigerian Diasporas have been found to possess the needed capital, intellectual ability and international connection to be able to reverse the national developmental problems. It now behooves the government and policy maker to consciously pursue such policies that will critically address the poor infrastructural conditions in the country as well as create enabling environment that would catalyze the Diasporas to contribute maximally to the development of the country. In the same vein, the call by Ali Mazrui (2010) for the establishment of a Diaspora Bank for the transfer of fund to Africa is another pragmatic way of harnessing the much needed capital to the transformation of African continent as a matter of desideratum.

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