AQUA THERAPY IN 2 KINGS 2:19-22 AND ITS RELEVANCE TO REVAMPING NIGERIA'S DWINDLING ECONOMY

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Abstract

Many studies have been carried out on various factors that affect Nigeria's economic stability from different points of view and these factors such as affordable housing, employment, worker protections, child care and so on are integral to the health and quality standard of living of both her citizens and non-citizens that dwell in the country. However, studies from the biblical perspectives on the subject have not particularly considered the situation of the people of Jericho in Prophet Elisha's period as it applies to the Nigerian contexts in contemporary times. This paper therefore using the comparative, exegetical and hermeneutical methods considered the threats to the economic stability of Jericho and its dwellers in 2 Kings 2:19-22 and strategies adopted to overcome them and applied same to the Nigeria's situation. Six (6) Hebrew words were studied as they affect economic stability and inferences were drawn from them to secure economic stability in Nigeria. Findings from the study showed that Nigeria is well situated geographically and blessed with huge population, large bodies of water, arable land mass among several other natural resources but these have not been economically maximized to the nation's advantage because Nigeria is in precarious situation. The study concluded on the note that Nigeria needs to be healed of its ailments for the health of its dwellers. The study then recommended that the agencies that are responsible for hydrological services, environmental protection, housing and agriculture in Nigeria should expunge corruption and other activities that dwindle the economy of the country and work out strategies for the optimal usage of the nation's natural resources.

Keywords: Aqua therapy, Biblical exposition, Economic stability, Nigeria.

Introduction

Economic stability is a very important element in the governance and administration of any nation. The prosperity and entire livelihood of the citizenry of any country depends absolutely on how stable the economy of the nation is. Nations of the world are divided into great, middle and low economies. Nations with great and advanced economy are the developed nations of the world with stable economy which results into a good standard of living for a good number of their dwellers. These are the reasons that citizens of other country usually seek to relocate abroad especially Europe or the United States of America because life seems better due to the availability of basic amenities that citizens and non-citizens of such countries enjoy. On the other hand, middle and low economy nations such as Nigeria and several other African countries do

not have stable economies like the developed countries. This economic instability affects the living standards of the people that live in such countries and also effect other aspects of the country's sectors because there are no much financial resources to drive the sectors for optimal benefits.

By definition, economic stability is absence of excessive fluctuations in the macro-economy (ESCWA, 2022), macro-economy being the branch of economics that deals with the performance, structure, behaviour, and decision-making of an economy as a whole (O'Sullivan, 2003:57). An economy with fairly constant output growth and low and stable inflation would be considered stable economically, while the one with frequent large recession, a pronounced business cycle, very high inflation, or frequent financial crises would be considered unstable.

In simple terms, economic stability according to the Network for Public Law (2023) means that people have the resources essential to a healthy life. Macro-economics take a big-picture view of the entire economy including examining the roles of and relationships between corporations, governments and households and the different types of markets such as the financial market and the labour market. Macro-economics study topics such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), unemployment (including unemployment rates), national income, indices, output, consumption, inflation, saving, investment, energy, international trade, and international finance (Williamson, 1999:2).

Therefore, factors that affect the economic stability of any nation includes: affordable housing; employment that provides a living wage; things that support employment like workers' protections, paid sick leave, child care and access to reliable transportation. When all these basic essentials are available in a country, the economy of the country is said to be stable and the dwellers of the country are well positioned to meet their basic needs and equally enjoy good life. Every nation of the world is blessed with human and natural resources and the onus then lies on the government of each of the nations to manage these resources to the advantage of the people of their nations. Countries that do well in the management of their resources enjoy a stable economic stability while those who do poorly in the same subject experience all sorts of instabilities in their economy that negatively impede their prosperity.

In this work, the ancient biblical city of Jericho was considered in regards to its economic stability and its effects on the living standards of its people and these are compared with the situation of Nigeria and Nigerians. The situation of Jericho and its people, the condition of its water and the health of its land as they affect the economies of Jericho were critically examined under six (6) Hebrew words in 2 Kings 2:19-22 namely: bv; ÛAm (*moshab*, meaning "situation"), bAj (*tov*, meaning "good"), $\hat{e} \sim yIMi$ (*mayim*, meaning "waters"), $\sim y[iPr$ (*ra'im*, meaning "bad" or "evil"), $\#r < a'\hat{i}$, (*eres*, meaning "earth" or "ground" and tl,K'(v;m.(*masakalat*, meaning "to be bereaved", "to be barren", "to be made childless". These were studied and applied to the situation in Nigeria in order to achieve economic stability in the nation. The work adopted comparative and exegetical research methodologies for the examination of 2 Kings 2:19-22 in relation to the contexts of Nigeria.

The work adopted Thales philosophy of water as a theoretical framework. The philosophy is believed that the principle underlying everything is water (Amen, 2014:3-38). Most of the earliest philosophers conceived water as material principle underlying all things. That all things consists water, which formed the genesis of their creation. Thales, the founder of this school of philosophy says the permanent entity is water, which is why he also propounded that the earth flows on water.

Thale's philosophy can be compared with the creation story. The Bible says at creation, the earth was void and without form and water covered the entire surface of the earth, which was referred to as deep (Genesis 1:2). About 71% of the earth's surface is covered by water and the oceans hold 96.5% of all earth's water. Water also exists in the air as water vapour, in rivers and lakes, in icecaps and glaciers, in the ground as soil moisture and in the aquifers and in fact everywhere. Also, according to the creation account, many of the moving creatures of the world that have life in them such as whales and other great and smaller fishes and all kinds of winged fowls were directly produced from the waters (Genesis 1:20-21).

Culturally, the Yoruba people have a belief that *omi o l'ota* that is "water has no enemy", this is because of its universal usefulness. It is also believed among many traditional Yoruba people that you cannot fail in any trade/business that involves water. According to Ajibade (2021). Traditionally, water constitutes and creates cultural, social and religious identities among the Yoruba people of South western Nigeria. To them, water is medicine and equally medicine is water. These buttress the fact that water is indeed a universal solvent and when the waters are good, life would be good.

Economic Stability in Nigeria

Nigeria economy is a middle-income, mixed economy and emerging market with expanding manufacturing, financial, service, communication, technology and entertainment sectors. According to Wigmore Trading (2021), there are three major sectors of Nigeria economy namely: agriculture, manufacturing and services. Nigeria economic freedom scored 53.9% making its economy the 124th freest in the 2023 index (Economic Freedom Heritage, 2023). Its score is 0.5 point lower than what it was in year 2022. Nigeria is ranked 22nd out of 46 countries in the sub-Sahara Africa region and its overall score is considered to be below the world average.

The poor score of Nigeria economic stability in relation to great economies of the world is evident from the living conditions and other factors of economy in the nation. Nigeria whose population is about 211.4 million has not been able to maximize its huge human resources for the prosperity of the nation and its dwellers. Currently, the nation's GDP stands at \$1.2 trillion; unemployment rate at 8.5%; inflation at 17.0% and public debt a736.6% (Economic Freedom Heritage, 2023). The Economic Growth and Trade organization have been able to identify the main causes of economic instability in Nigeria and these range from: inadequate infrastructure, tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade, obstacles to investments, lack of confidence in currency valuation and limited foreign exchange capacity. Adewuyi (2023) further highlights ten other causes of economic instability in Nigeria. According to him, causes of economic instability in Nigeria are: unstable policies and initiative, lack of cooperation between government and private sector, corruption, poor human development, over-dependence on crude oil, crime and terrorism,

low export earning and high rate of unemployment. The results of economic instability in Nigeria have negative effects on the nation and her people at large.

From the causes of economic instability highlighted, it could be said that Nigeria's economic problem is primarily as a result of poor management of the nation's abundant resources. The nation is blessed with arable land mass for agriculture, yet it has not been able to feed it citizens; it still depends hugely on food imported into the country. Also, there are large bodies of waters in forms of lakes, rivers, lagoons and also ocean, yet these natural resources have not been fully taken advantage of for the benefit of the nation and her people and much more discouraging is the fact that despite these bodies of water, a good number of Nigerians do not have access to good water and still have to trek kilometres to get water for their daily use.

Study of selected Words in 2 Kings 2:19-22 and their Implications to the Economy of Jericho

bv;ÛAm - *moshab*

The Hebrew word bv; ÛAm transliterated *moshab* is translated "situation" (Bible Works 7). It is a common masculine singular construct noun. The word itself originates from the Hebrew word transliterated *yashab* and it means "a seat", "an assembly", "a dwelling place" and "dwellers" (Strong's Concordance). In the context of usage, the word addresses the geography and physical conditions of Jericho as a dwelling place, conditions that is expected to be reflected in the lives of the dwellers of Jericho.

bAjê-tov

The Hebrew word bAjê-transliterated tov means "a good thing", "benefit", "welfare", "pleasant", "agreeable". The word is a masculine singular absolute adjective, which qualifies the situation of Jericho as a dwelling place. When the two words are put together alongside the other words as seen in verse 19, it reads "The situation of Jericho is pleasant". This means the geographical location and physical condition of Jericho was good and this goodness should be seen in the lives of the people that live in the land, their standard of living should be fine. Ellicott (2022) observed that Jericho is a city of palms (Deut. 34:3). The palms of Jericho do not only symbolize fertility or prosperity of the land, the land is indeed prosperous as the men of the city could testify. Exell, Spence-Jones and Henry (2021) explained that Jericho is now the present Erita and it lies on a broad plain which is traversed by an abundant river at the point where one of the main wadys debouched from the Judean upland the low country, shaded by groves of palm trees and fig mulberries. For an agrarian community that Jericho is, the rivers, palms and figs are all signs of pleasantaries of the land.

~yIM:ï-mayim

The Hebrew word \sim yIM:ï - transliterated *mayim* is a common masculine plural absolute noun which means "waters". Water is a universal solvent and it is essential to life itself. Apart from its domestic uses by the people of Jericho, it is also important to their economic activities as an agrarian community. The spring where the waters of Jericho flows from is now called "Ain-es-Sultan" that is, the spring of Sultan which is the only copious source near the site of the ancient Jericho (Excel *et al.*, 2021).

~y[iÞr"*-ra'im*

The Hebrew word ~y[iÞr" transliterated- *ra'im* is a masculine plural absolute adjective which is translated "bad" "evil" and some translation "naught" (Bible Works 7). Chompff (2009) observed that the translation "naught" does not reflect the strength of the Hebrew word ~y[iÞr" which was only translated three times in the Bible, but the same word was translated "evil" or "wickedness" or "wicked" 526 times in the Bible. The adjective ~y[iÞr" used in describing the condition of the water is in plural from (evils), which is probably derived from the numerous negative effects of the bad state of the waters of Jericho on both plants and human lives. Gill (1999) equally mentioned that the bad state of the waters of Jericho caused women to miscarry after taking it, but added that not only humans were affected even the plants were also negatively affected as they cast their fruits. According to Exell, Spence-Jones and Henry (2021), the waters of Jericho were not diffusing health and fertility, but disease and barrenness, untimely deaths and abortions prevailed among humans and cattle which fed in the neighbourhood and perhaps among the inhabitants of the locality and all these were attributed to the bitter springs, which made the land unproductive and its inhabitants suffer miscarriages.

#r<a'î -eres

This is common feminine absolute singular noun, which means "earth" or "ground". It means the top structure on which the people of Jericho dwell, but much more than that, it is the element that supports their agricultural life, the very factor on which the productivity of the land and therefore the healthy life on which the inhabitants depends. If the topography and other physical conditions of the land are good, the dwellers would live safely without the fear of natural disasters such as earthquakes and the likes. If the condition of the land is good in terms of its fertility, the agricultural produce of the people would be plenteous and would lead to bumper harvest and vice-versa.

tl,K'(v;m. -masakalat

This is *piel* feminine singular absolute verb. It means "to be bereaved", "to be barren" or "to be made childless". While the word tells the condition of the ground or land of Jericho as if functioning as an adjective, in the real sense it is a verb' a *piel* verb. The *piel* stem of Hebrew verbs is principally to intensify the idea that a verb has in order to understand its gravity. This intensifying of the idea of the stem appears in individual cases as: a strengthening and repetition of the action; causative; or denominative (Whitefield, 2018:23). The word tl,K'(v;m to mean "bereaved", which means to be "to be deprived of close relation or friend through death" could be a way of strengthening the word "barren". To be bereaved is to be deprived of a close relation or friend through death. Also, in a causative case, *piel* verbs strongly suggest that someone is responsible for the action that occurred. In this context, it carries an idea that the "bereavement" or "barrenness" of the land of Jericho was as a result of someone or some people's actions (or even inactions). Gill (1999) quoted Abarnel was of the opinion that the barrenness of the land of Jericho was as a result of the curse Joshua placed on it in Joshua 6:26. Gill (1999) however opined that if it was as a result of the curse of Joshua, the land would not have been inhabited again and then suggested that it could be as a result of a new curse after the land was re-inhabited after Joshua cursed it in the first place, but was of the opinion that the curse might have only affected only a small part of the ground and not the whole land as observed. Whether it was the curse of Joshua or a new curse entirely, it could be explained that Jericho waters and land were

not in the state they were before now, someone or some people's actions must have been responsible for the bad state of the land and its waters.

Healing of the Waters and Land of Jericho and the Improved standard of Living of Its Dwellers

The evils of their waters and the bereavement of their land were the anomalies the men of Jericho realized with their waters and land, which are very instrumental to their livelihood and the economy of their city and they decided to act on it. The people knew what the condition of the land was before now. Perhaps they realized it was a spiritual problem, but it is surprising why they did not call on Elijah to fix the problem. When they realized Elisha had been endued with power, they went to him for help. Apart from parting River Jordan in order to cross to the land of Jericho, the healing of the waters and land of Jericho was the first ministerial assignment cum miracle that Elisha performed after receiving the mantle of his master, Elijah.

In proffering solution to the problems of the dwellers of Jericho which had not only affected their economic output but also the holistic health of their plants and animal life, Elijah requested for a new jar with salt in it and went to the spring, which is the place or act of going forth, the place where the waters issue forth, the very source of the waters of Jericho and healed the waters that have been made bad. According to Gill (1999), this ac'äAm translated "source" is the fountain from where the water flowed, the head of them. The used new jar and salt were symbolic in the healing process (Gill, 1999; Peake, 2001). Ellicott (2022) is of the opinion that a new jar was needed because the holy purpose demanded an instrument that is uncontaminated by use. Impurity must be cleansed by means that are wholly clean and cure (Exell et al., 2021). In addition, Gill (1999) opined that salt was an unlikely means of making bad water good, but this method, contrary to nature, was taken, that the miracle might appear greater and this same symbolism was used in the gospel as Christ likened Christians to the salt of the earth (cf: Matthew 5:14). Exell, Spence-Jones and Henry (2021) observed that physically, salt would be most unapt to be used to bring healing to an unwholesome stream already holding too much salt in solution is chosen as an emblem of purity, being that by this same salt, corruption and any form of decay is prevented.

Elisha went to the spring of these contaminated waters which caused the bereavement of the land and its negative effects on both plant and animal lives, poured the salt in the new jar into it and healed the waters. Elisha proclaimed that "I have healed (ytiaPi'rI) these waters and never again would it cause death. The Hebrew word ytiaPi'rI translated "healed" is also a *piel* verb, which indicates that someone was responsible for the healing of the bad waters and that it does not assume that state by itself. The healing of the waters was not a temporary thing; it was permanent (Gill, 1999).

Applying 2 Kings 2:19-22 to Economic stability in Nigeria

The conditions of both the dwelling place and dwellers of Jericho can be applied to the context of Nigeria and Nigerians, its water and land in light of economic stability of the Nation. The application of 2 Kings 2:19-22 can be discussed and applied to the contexts of Nigeria under the following:

The Situation of Nigeria as a Dwelling Place and Its Dwellers

Nigeria is a country in West Africa with coordinates 9.0820°N and 8.6753°E and a total landmass of 923,768km² (356,669sq.mi). It shares land borders with the Republic of Benin to the West, Chad and Cameroon to the East and Niger to the North (Nigeria Country Profile, 2014). In 2021, the total population of Nigeria was estimated to 213.4million with a population growth of 2.4% (Worldbank.org). Nigeria is blessed with abundant sources of water mostly from rainfall and its rivers. The Mean annual precipitation of rainfall in Nigeria is 1,165.0mm. Rainfall is experienced throughout the year in Nigeria with most significant rainfall occurring from April to October and with minimal rainfall occurring November to March (The World Bank Group, 2021). Because of the equator, sunrise and sunset, Nigeria does not differ significantly throughout the year (World Data, 2021).

There is an average of 1885 hours of sunlight per year (of possible 4383) with an average of 5.09 of sunlight per day. It is sunny 43% of daylight hours. The remaining 57% of daylight hours are likely cloudy with low sun intensity. At midday, the sun is on average 74.6° above the horizon (World Data, 2021). With all these, the country Nigeria like Jericho could be described as a well situation place of dwelling.

About its dwellers, it is estimated that 60% of Nigeria's population is under the age of 25, making it the youngest among the countries in Africa (This Day, 2023). The large population of youth in Nigeria is to its advantage as this provides enough manpower to drive its economy. The National Youth Policy of Nigeria (2019) describes the teeming youth population of the nation, which it puts between ages 18 to 29 as ambitious, enthusiastic, energetic and promising. Besides, the country is blessed with enough natural resources such as petroleum, natural gas, tin, columbite, iron ore, coal, limestone, niobium, lead, zinc and arable land (Nation's Online Project, 2016). With these abundant natural resources, arable land for agriculture and abundant supply of water and inter-connectivity of its bodies of water, the nation is well endowed for a productive economic activity that would enhance the standard of living of Nigeria citizens and its dwellers as a whole.

However, this is not usually the case. In 2023, it was reported that nearly 12% of the world population in extreme poverty lived in Nigeria with the poverty threshold at \$1.90 per day (Sasu, 2023). Also, a recent report by the World Bank in its Macro Poverty Outlook for Nigeria projects that about 13million Nigerians would fall below the national poverty line by 2025 owing to the country's population growth surpassing efforts to reduce poverty among its people (World Bank, 2023).

The state of Nigeria's Waters and Maritime

Nigeria as a country is blessed with abundant bodies of water like rivers, lakes, lagoons and also the Atlantic Ocean at its coastal regions. Although its body of water constitutes a meager portion of 1.41% of the entire land mass of the nation (Nigeria Country Profile, 2014), yet it is sufficient enough to adequately meet the domestic, agricultural and other needs of the countrymen that require water. These bodies of water are mostly used for fishing, irrigation and other agricultural uses. On River Niger, the biggest hydroelectric power station in Nigeria is constructed at Kainji dam in the old Bussa, on the same river; the Jebba Hydroelectric power station is also constructed. On Shiroro river still in Niger state, the Shiroro Hydro electric power station is constructed, generating 760 megawatts, 578.4megawatts and 600megawatts of electricity respectively (Sahara Reporters). Besides the uses of these waters for agricultural purposes, generation of electricity and transportation, there are also bodies of water in Nigeria for maritime businesses. Maritime is connected with sea, especially in relation to seaborne trade. The maritime industry in Nigeria is that which is very important to its economic growth and if maximized can play a good role in the economic stability of the nation (Faith, 2004), but as a result of poor funding, manpower, legislation, pollution and safety the industry has not been able to operate at its optimal level.

However, with these volume of waters available to Nigerians, the people of Nigeria still suffers a great deal regarding water supply. There are people living in Nigeria both in the urban and rural areas that lack good water for drinking and other domestic uses and some buy water for their households at very exorbitant prices. In the area of agriculture, many farmers still cannot produce food year in year out as a result of poor irrigation system. In Lagos state of Nigeria, the roads are always being plagued with heavy traffic where the dwellers lose good hours of their productive times plying to and fro their work stations. But many have no option than to go through these difficulties day in day out because the water transportation is expensive. Also, while it is true that some part of the nation suffers water population, which impedes agricultural produces generally, the bodies of water in Nigeria are good and do not cause death and miscarriages. The evils that plagued these waters which affect the health of the dwellers in the nation and the economic output of the country are mainly lack of creative ideas by the political leaders on how to maximize these abundant natural provisions to the advantage of the nation, corruption within the agencies that manage these resources and acts of indiscipline by some of the dwellers themselves.

Nigeria's Arable Lands and Their Challenges

Nigeria has a total land mass of 932,768km². The nation has 35 million hectares as an arable land area. 6.5 million hectares for permanent crops, and 28.6 million hectares on meadows and pastures. Agriculture accounts for about 23% of Nigeria's GDP (Kamer, 2022). The arable lands in Nigeria are so blessed with adequate supply of rainfall and sunlight. The general environmental and weather conditions in Nigeria support crop production as it is not uncommon to see plants/weeds grow on roof tops and other very unlikely places in the country. About 70% of households in Nigeria participate in crop farming activities, while 41% own or raise livestock (Karmer, 2022). Regardless of these, the country cannot still feed itself but have to depend heavily on food importation to feed its people, which is still largely inadequate. According to Okojie (2023), Nigeria's food importation gulps N1.9trn in 2022 despite the continuous push of the Federal Government of Nigeria to boost local production capacity. With the natural provision of arable lands in Nigeria, the nation is endowed to feed her people and to make agriculture to generate at least 50% of the GDP of the nation.

Though environmental issues such as water pollution, oil spillage, lead exposures, poor waste management, deforestation, desertification, erosion and flooding have been identified as some of the environment issues that affect the nation, which also have negative effects on crop production and other agricultural activities (Nigeria Country Profile, 2014), yet, the major problems which affect the agricultural production in Nigeria are mostly self-caused. Nigeria is bereaved and the bereavement is masterminded by some of its nationals who do not have the interest of the country at heart but who are driven by greed. The activities of Boko Haram

insurgencies, killer Fulani Herdsmen, kidnappers and other securities menaces all have negative impacts on agricultural production in Nigeria. Rather than having people go into farming and other agricultural activities, a good number are afraid of the evil that would befall them if they venture into it. Another challenge is the lack of government support for farmers to produce in large scale. The Bank of Agriculture, which makes funds available for farmers, is now a shadow of itself and many of the farmers are not getting sufficient assistance from the government. In places where the government even tries to make certain things available for farmers to boost their work, the corruption in the system had been another major problem.

Healing the Waters and Lands of Nigeria for Its Economic Stability Identifying the nature and causes of the problems

The challenges plaguing the waters and arable lands of Nigeria need to be identified just as the men of Jericho identified theirs. The political leaders need to give listening ears to the problems of the people. It is likely that the people in the corridors of political powers in Nigeria are not being faced with the same economic problems that the rest of the masses are facing. But like the men of Jericho, they need to see the problems as their own very problem.

Leadership and Management

While the spiritual causes of the economic problems in Nigeria cannot be undermined as a religious nation (Abati, 2016), it is very clear that the main challenges the nation face are the problems of leadership and management of resources. However, as a democratic nation, the leaders do not put themselves in power; they emerge by the choices of the people. The general masses, therefore, need to be sensitive and deliberate in choosing leaders. When tribalism, racial discrimination, religious sentiments continued to be the motivators for choosing leaders into power, the problems of the nation would not abate. When leaders eventually are voted into power, they should learn the creative way of solving problems than putting blames on their predecessors, which is a common practice in Nigeria political parlance. Also, resources need to be well managed. The nation loses so much to wastage and this is seen in virtually all the sectors of the economy. Appropriate measures should be put in place to stamp out wastage. Government policies should be sustained regardless of successions in governments. However, the culture of management is to be imbibed by everyone and not just the political leaders.

The use of Technology for preservation of crops

Loses due to poor roads and lack of storage facilities are equally part of the causes of food wastage that is being experienced in Nigeria, which also affects economic stability negatively. Many crops, especially perishable crops are destroyed from the farms where they are being cultivated to the points of sale. In Nigeria, a good number of fruits are wasted and are not being able to preserve throughout the year because there are no facilities to store them. To change this narrative, there is a need to make use of technology for preservation of crops. This will make food supply to be available year in year out and would also enhance economic stability in a way.

Dealing with corruption within the system

Corruption is a major challenge to economic stability in Nigeria. There is so much rot in every sector of Nigeria's economy and until this menace is dealt with, economic stability in Nigeria would never be attainable. Technology can also be used in dealing with corruption in the system. The anti-graft agencies need to be strengthened and be more productive.

Conclusion

This work has examined the healing of the waters and lands of Jericho by Prophet Elisha after the men of the city realized the plagues and bereavements that rendered the waters bad for both the plant and the animal life. Comparative, exegetical and hermeneutical research methods were used to situate the narrative of 2 Kings 2:19-22 in the Nigeria context as it affects Nigeria's economic stability. Nigeria is well situated and both its waters and lands are good enough to support the dwellers in the land and are also capable of enhancing the economic stability of the country. When leaders lead well and corruption is expunged, Nigeria will excel economically.

Recommendations

Based on the findings in this work, the following recommendations are made:

- i. Nigerian political leaders should embrace an all-inclusive government. They should interact with those they are leading in order to have ideas on how to solve the myriads of challenges they are going through.
- ii. The agencies that are responsible for hydrological services, environmental protection, and agriculture in Nigeria should expunge corruption and other activities that dwindle the economy of the country and work out strategies for the optimal usage of the nation's natural resources.
- iii. Where water and land pollution are being experienced as a result of activities being carried out, the Federal Government of Nigeria should clean such places up and deal with illegal mining and other things that cause the pollution.
- iv. The use of technology should be employed in every aspect of the economy.

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