

Nigeria and Canada Bilateral Relations on Economic and Socio-political Relations

Raji Shittu Adewole

Centre for Peace and Strategic Studies
University of Ilorin, Ilorin Kwara State, Nigeria

&

Yusuf Idowu Mulikat

Department of Politics and Governance

Kwara State University, Malete

Email: yusufmulikat@gmail.com

Abstract

Nigeria and Canada established bilateral relations two years after Nigeria's independence. The two countries have engaged in political, economic and social relations overtime. The study examined the objectives of Nigeria and Canada bilateral relations, the dimension and impact of such relations on both countries, especially in the areas of trade and investment, political interest and social connections. Qualitative research method was employed in the study and data were sourced from secondary sources. Findings from the study confirmed that the bilateral relation between Nigeria and Canada is a progressive one but it revealed that such relationship has benefitted Canada more than Nigeria because the latter is facing more internal development challenges including corruption, bad leadership, weak economy and dilapidated social infrastructures amongst others. The study concluded that the above internal development challenges have greatly disarticulated Nigeria's economy and prevented her from benefitting maximally from the Nigeria - Canada bilateral relations. It is recommended that issues of corruption, import-oriented economy and over-concentration on crude oil which are among the primary causes of the lull in the Nigeria economy should be urgently addressed.

Keywords: Bilateral, Relation, Socio-political, Development

Introduction

Canada and Nigeria established bilateral relations after Nigeria's independence in the year 1962 (High Commission of Canada, 2014). Canada is represented in Nigeria by its High Commission, which opened in Abuja in 1999 and a Deputy High Commission that was opened in Lagos in 1999. Since 2004, Canada has an Honorary Consul in Port Harcourt, Cross-River state of Nigeria. Nigeria is represented in Canada by a High Commission, which opened in Ottawa in 1973 (High Commission of Canada in Nigeria, 2014). Canada enjoys strong and increasing bilateral relations with Nigeria, and Nigeria is one of the strategic partners of Canada in sub-Saharan Africa on importation and exportation. The two countries share values such as multiculturalism, federal states, Commonwealth membership, and people-to-people ties provides a solid foundation for increased engagement (High Commission of Canada in Nigeria, 2014).

The relationship between the countries have blossom over the years. Canada is impressed with Nigeria's leadership role in African and global affairs, most notably through its significant contribution to international peace operations. Nigeria is among the largest troops contributing African nation and the fifth largest globally, with over 4,700 personnel deployed in Sudan and Liberia alone. Nigeria contributed over 1,000 military personnel and several aircraft in support of the United Nations Security Council-mandated African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA, 2009). Nigeria is Canada's most important trading partner in Africa. Canada on the other hand has been exporting quite a number of commodities into Nigeria and these includes; wheat, aircraft including helicopters and various kinds of industrial equipments and Canada is as well a major aid donor to Nigeria (Onwuka, 2016).

However, in spite of the bilateral relationship between both countries, Canada has continue to develop socially, politically and economically unlike Nigeria whereby some internal factors have been hindering economic and socio-political development in the country. Corruption has been as a significant problem in Nigeria. It has done much damage to the country in a number of ways and this has been

engineered through miss-governance (Onwuka, 2016). The effect of corruption in Nigeria has been exemplified through improper management of public funds, public organizations, security services, schools, health care services, and infrastructural facilities among others. So from this perspective, it is often difficult to attract foreign investments because a country like Canada will not want to invest in a country that doesn't respects rule of law and obviously swimming in corrupt practices like Nigeria (Onwuka, 2016).

Canada has been organizing 'Education Fair' in Nigeria particularly in Abuja and Lagos over the years and this has attracted many Nigerians to study in Canada and the numbers of Nigeria students keeps growing. For instance twelve years ago, the numbers of Nigeria students studying abroad was 800 but at the present moment, the number of Nigeria students studying in Canada is over 9000 and Nigerians are the 8th largest group of foreign students in Canada (Onwuka, 2016). The problem here is that the money that is meant to be invested in Nigeria's economy has been diverted to the economy of Canada which has made it to be continuously growing while that of Nigeria is falling and the educational system has been distorted due to the appreciation of a foreign based degree to that of Nigeria's degree and the question at this point is how many Canadian citizens have come to study in Nigeria and if any, is the number comparable to that of Nigeria students in Canada? Canada is extremely strong in the mining sector and it's among one of the mining countries in the world. There are huge Canadian investments in mining in many African countries but none in Nigeria in spite of the fact that Nigeria has mining potentials and has remain Canada's number one partner in sub-Saharan Africa.

Stemming from the above, it is believed that Nigeria is Canada's number one business partner in Africa but there hasn't been impact of such huge investment in Nigeria's economy. Comparatively, there are over 70 Canadian's companies in Nigeria while few or none of Nigeria companies are established in Canada. Both Canada and Nigeria have a lot of potentials in renewable energy and each country has its own oil and gas. In the case of Canada, the country has hydro-electric power, solar and wind technologies. The academic debate has being that the bilateral relation between the two countries is tilted in favor of Canada than Nigeria. From the said above, this paper examined the objectives of Nigeria-Canada bilateral relation, the pattern of Nigeria-Canada economic relation, Nigeria-Canada socio-political relation and the most benefitted country between the two countries.

Literature Review

In effort to buttress the understanding of Nigeria-Canada relations and in the political, economic and social precincts, extant literature, both from erudite scholars and the media were reviewed in this study for a comparative understanding of the bilateral relations between Nigeria and Canada.

According to the Canadian Trade Commissioner Service (2012), Canada is a federation of ten provinces and three territories with massive land mass while Nigeria is a federation of 36 states with imposed land mass. Canada has small population of about 36,155,487 and the 2nd largest economy in the world and also rich in natural resources while Nigeria has the largest Africa population of over 180 million and facing largest power deficit. Both Nigeria and Canada are endowed with natural resources. Canada has moved from resource-based to service-based economy and the only country that did not need a bailout of its financial institutions and also trade with other advanced countries of the world. Conversely, Nigeria, despite its vast natural resources, remains a primary resource-based economy that generates meager income. (The Canadian Trade Commissioner Service, 2012).

In spite of these economic disparities between the two countries, there is an agreement between Canada and Nigeria for the promotion and protection of investment (Canada Global Affairs, 2014). The agreement contains the definitions, substantive obligations, settlement of disputes between an investor and the host party, state to state dispute settlement procedure, and final provisions. The agreement centers on the notion of recognizing that the promotion and the protection of investments of investors of one Party in the territory of the other Party will be conducive to the stimulation of mutually beneficial business activity, to the development of economic cooperation between them and to the promotion of sustainable development. There is also an acknowledgment on the right of each Party to define the conditions under

which foreign investments are admitted, which should be consistent with the Agreement. There is also a clause on an investors' duty to respect and operate within the framework of its laws that are consistent with the Agreement (Canada Global Affairs, 2014).

According to Oscarline (2011), the Canadian government revealed the interest of major energy companies in the country to invest in Nigeria's power sector. The Canadian government noted that as a second global energy superpower, it is interested in the unfolding development in the Nigeria's electricity market, and has sought specific areas of participation in the country's power plan. Since 2009, Canada has contributed more than \$500,000 toward counterterrorism initiatives to help boost Nigeria's capacity to prevent, respond to and ultimately stop terrorist acts, and this has focused on building the operational capacity of law enforcement and security forces (Steven, 2014). According to Steven (2014), Canadian Special Forces soldiers moved into Nigeria by helping the government search for hundreds of schoolgirls kidnapped by Islamic militant group Boko Haram. Canada's contribution is part of a widening Western effort to help find the girls and comes as the Nigerian government now says it's open to negotiating for their release. This comes amid deepening security ties between Canada and Nigeria.

The above reviewed confirmed that the Nigeria and Canada bilateral relations have blossom over the years even though Nigeria appears to be junior partner in the relationship owing to her weak economic foundation.

Theoretical Framework

There is no doubt that theories of constructivism, capitalism, eclecticism among others have dominated the literature that relates to the bilateral relationships between countries of the world. But these theories did not individually explain reasons for the continuous bilateral relationships and effects on various countries economic and socio-political development. The theories seem to have looked at the relationship from a single perspective. Contrarily, the liberal theory was employed to analyze the study.

Liberal theory

The liberal theory is expounded by scholars such as Nicolo Machiavelli, Immanuel Kant, Adam Smith, John Stuart Mill, John Milton, John Locke, Jeremy Bentham, Aristotle, Herbert Spencer, Charles Montesquieu, among others. Each scholar has various contributions to the expansion and development of liberal theory.

The core assumptions of Liberal theory

All liberal theories place state-society relations at the center of world politics. They rest on the fundamental premise that state behavior reflects the relationship between it and the domestic and transnational society in which it is embedded. This basic claim underlies theories about the influence of economic interdependence, varying conceptions of collective goods provision, or domestic representation. This basic insight can be restated more precisely in terms of three "hard core" assumptions, which specify, respectively, the nature of societal actors, the nature of the state, and the nature of the international system.

Two major assumptions liberal theory make towards analyzing the relationship amongst states in the international circle and that is exemplified in Nigeria-Canada bilateral relations are the assumptions of anarchy and rationality amongst states. Specifically, states (or other political actors) exist in an anarchic environment and they generally act in a broadly rational way in making decisions. The anarchy assumption means that political actors exist in the distinctive environment of international politics, without a world government or any other authority with a monopoly on the legitimate use of force. They must engage in self-help.

The rationality assumption means that state leaders and their domestic supporters engage in foreign policy for the instrumental purpose of securing benefits provided by (or avoiding costs imposed by) actors outside of their borders, and in making such calculations, states seek to deploy the most cost-effective means to achieve whatever their ends (preferences) may be. Liberal theory shares the first (anarchy) assumption with almost all international relations theories, and it shares the second (rationality) assumption with realism and institutionalism, but not non-rationalist process theories (Andrew, 2010).

Liberal theories are distinguished from other rationalist theories, such as realism and institutionalism, by two unique assumptions about world politics: (1) States represent social groups whose views constitute state preferences; and (2) Interdependence among state preferences influences state policy.

Liberalist theory was adopted to explain the Nigeria-Canada relations because Liberals argue that the universal condition of world politics is globalization. States are, and always have been, embedded in a domestic and transnational society, which creates incentives for economic, social and cultural interaction across borders. State policy may facilitate or block such interactions. Some domestic groups may benefit from or be harmed by such policies, and they pressure government accordingly for policies that facilitate realization of their goals.

These social pressures, transmitted through domestic political institutions, define "state preferences" that is, the set of substantive social purposes that motivate foreign policy. State preferences give governments an underlying stake in the international issues they face. Since the domestic and transnational social context in which states are embedded varies greatly across space and time, so do state preferences. Without such social concerns that transcend state borders, states would have no rational incentive to engage in world politics at all, but would simply devote their resources to an autarkic and isolated existence.

From the perspectives of the liberalist, no man is an island and the essence of Nigeria Canada relations is as a result of the societal actors, the nature of the states, and the international system. Nigeria and Canada come together to achieve to share the benefits of socio-economic and political development and also due to the emergence of globalization, which paved ways for international interaction and integration arising from the interchange of world views, products, ideas and other aspects of culture.

Although in some cases, the relationships among states can be harmful to a side and beneficial to the other and this is why states seek to promote and protect their national interests. From the liberalist arguments, Nigeria and Canada engaged in bilateral relations to achieve their preferences. For instance, the major transaction between the duo countries is crude oil. Since Nigeria is blessed with crude oil, Canada gets oil from Nigeria easily because both countries are partners and in return, Nigeria also gets political, social and economic assistance from Canada. This can be exemplified in the assistance rendered to Nigeria by Canada on political development. Canada has been providing technical assistance to Nigeria during general elections since 1999 and also gave support to the electoral body in Nigeria INEC. On social grounds, Canada has help Nigeria to fight against polio, the country has donated funds in order to put an halt to Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria. In conclusion, both countries are not benefitting equally, but all the same, it depends on how countries in relations seek to achieve their national interests.

Objectives and Contents of Nigeria and Canada Bilateral Relations

There are quite numbers of foreign relations objectives between Nigeria and Canada and these includes: The objective of the Nigeria-Canada bilateral relation was to bring together the association of Nigeria and Canada according to the documents that articulate their bilateral relations objectives and the general community through educational, social, cultural and economic activities, to promote the interests of its members, and to foster Nigeria-Canada understanding and co-operation through disseminating information between Nigeria and Canada, participating in activities relating to exploring educational, social, cultural and economic collaboration, opportunities and promotions of progressive development organized by Canada and other relevant Canadian organizations and authorities.

Organizing meetings between Nigeria and Canada and the relevant organizations and authorities of Canada on social, cultural and economic matters; Co-operating with local and national authorities to seek Members' feedback on laws, regulations and procedures relevant to enhance the attractiveness and effectiveness of Canadian collaborative undertakings; Promoting business ties between Nigeria and Canada for the mutual benefit of the members and their Canadian counterparts; Promoting educational, social, cultural and economic activities between Nigeria and Canada.

The objective of the Association was to promote the welfare of its members and to promote Nigerian culture and traditions to the general community by: Promoting the integration of Nigerians and Canadians, acting as a liaison between members and official representatives of the governments of Nigeria and/or the governments of Canada; providing support and assistance to the members within the resources of the countries as, and when, the need arises; promoting relationship/collaboration among Nigerians and people of Nigeria heritage through educational, social, sports, cultural and economic activities; promoting mutual understanding among members of the Association to work together as a group for the common good of Nigerians in diasporas and the motherland (NCAFM, 2010).

Nigeria-Canada Economic Relation

Nigeria is Canada's largest bilateral merchandise trading partner in sub-Saharan Africa, and trade between the two has increased more than threefold since 2007 despite the drop in 2013 mainly due to decreased oil imports from Canada. In 2013, Canada's bilateral merchandise trade with Nigeria totaled \$1.6 billion. Canada's exports to Nigeria have increased significantly since 2003 and were \$463.3 million in 2013. Canadian merchandise imports from Nigeria consist of mineral fuels and oils, cocoa, rubber, lead and processed foods, totaling US \$1.2 billion (Nigeria Canada Forum, 2014).

The Canadian business presence in Nigeria is substantial and multi-faceted. Canadian interests cover a full range of key sectors, including oil and gas, telecommunications, and manufacturing equipments, aeronautics, energy, engineering education and commercial services. New areas with high potential for growth are mining technology as well as transportation. Recent and ongoing efforts to reform the banking sector stand to establish a more conducive foreign investment environment, creating potential opportunities for Canadian firms (Nigeria Canada Forum, 2014). Canada signed a Double Taxation Agreement with Nigeria in 1992. On May 1, 2013, Prime Minister Harper announced the conclusion of negotiations towards the Canada-Nigeria Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA), marked by the signing of a letter of Intent by Minister of trade in Canada, Mr. Fast and his Nigerian counterpart, former Minister of trade and investment Mr. Olusegun Aganga. The FIPA was signed by Minister for International Development Paradis and former Minister Aganga on May 6, 2014 during the Minister's visit to Abuja (Nigeria Canada Forum, 2014).

Canada has a well established and growing trade relationship with Nigeria. Nigeria represents an important trade partner for Canada in Sub-Saharan Africa. Trade is of high importance to the Nigerian economy which relies heavily upon the oil sector. A strong emphasis also exists on the infrastructure sector, which requires modernization. Nigeria's banking sector has strengthened in recent years and is among the most important in Sub-Saharan Africa. Security challenges in parts of Nigeria remain a concern. There are good export and investment opportunities across a wide range of sectors that match Canadian capabilities (EDC, 2014).

Recent high-level visits have served to strengthen the bilateral partnership. In April 2012, Nigeria and Canada signed the Memorandum of Understanding to establish a Bi-National Commission. As part of its promotion of democratic governance, Canada continues to provide support to groups and institutions that work to strengthen democracy, accountability and good governance in Nigeria. At \$2.7 billion in two-way merchandise trade for 2011, this commercial relationship with Nigeria is Canada's largest in sub-Saharan Africa. Although Canada's exports to Nigeria have increased by more than 200% since 2003, they have been fairly steady since 2009 and were \$227.3 million in 2011 (Nigeria Canada Forum, 2014). Recently too, Canada and Nigeria agreed to partner and explore various areas that would boost their trade volume to \$6 billion. Bilateral trade between Canada and Nigeria has been facilitated by the return to Nigeria of Export Development Canada, which in March 2011 announced a \$7 million investment fund through which it helps develop opportunities in Nigeria for Canadian companies. The fund is focused on sectors which mirror Canada's strongest export sectors, notably oil and gas, telecommunication and financial services (Nigeria Canada Forum, 2014).

Canada-Nigeria Business to Business Trade Show and Conferences: The business to business (B2B) trade show and conferences is organized by OZ Consulting Firm, OZ Management, & Wild Card

Experience. The trade show is to ensure one bridge and was scheduled for 5th – 7th Of October, 2016. The objectives of the trade show are as follows;

To develop a platform for the two continental powers (Nigeria and Canada) to leverage on their assets of abundant raw materials and untapped potentials for growth and investment to attract international business partnerships (Canada-Nigeria, 2016).

To enhance the established relationship between Canada and Nigeria in the oil and gas sector and establish a stronger relationship with Canada in the non-oil and gas sector, to help diversify the Nigerian economy and double trade between both countries to more than \$6 billion in the interim. To create a meeting point where many contacts can be established for the promotion of business exchange and alliances between the Nigerian and Canadian Business Communities leading to partnerships and business deals as well as the creation of a specialized Business network and forum for exchange of ideas and knowledge development for Emerging Public leaders in public and private sector organizations (Canada-Nigeria, 2016).

To facilitate interaction not just between Nigerian and Canadian Business leaders but also promote understanding between Nigerian public and private sector leaders towards deriving maximum value from the much-advocated public private partnerships (PPPs) for economic development. To help businesses and enterprises from both countries obtain visibility, highlight their capabilities, negotiate business, attract investors and develop as well as reinforce the national thrust on positioning Nigeria as the preferred destination for foreign direct investments, development aid and tourism.

To develop an advocacy vehicle to strengthen multilateral relations between Nigeria and the North American community as well as engage this sub regional bloc on the ideals of the new kind of partnerships espoused in the New Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD) initiative.

The key collaborating partners of the B2B trade show and conferences are; The Nigerian High Commission in Canada, The Canadian Trade Commission, Nigeria Investment Promotion Commission, Canadian Council on Africa, The department of foreign Affairs and international trade Canada, and Canadian Nigeria Bi-National Commission (Canada-Nigeria, 2016). The key partners and collaborating institutions of the B2B trade show and conferences are; Canadian Trade Development Agency, Nigeria Economic Summit Group, National Economic Council, Global Affairs Canada, The New Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD), Canadian Chamber of Commerce (200,000 business strong), Nigeria Chamber of Commerce, Mines and Industry, State Investment Promotion Agencies and NEXIM bank (Canada-Nigeria, 2016). **The key participating industries of the B2B trade show and conferences are;** Agriculture & Food Production, Aerospace & Machinery, Banking & Finance Services, Building & Construction materials, Business Equipment, Environment & Waste Management, Medicals & Pharmaceuticals, Mining & Energy, and Real Estate & Estate Management (Canada-Nigeria, 2016).

Benefits of Exhibiting and Participating at Canada - Nigeria B2B 2016 are as follows;

To showcase products or services and reach a targeted audience. Create and/or reinforce the visibility of your firm and raise the awareness and interest about its supply capacity.

Enable North American exhibitors and participants to tap into the virgin market of the largest country and economy in Africa with a population of over 180 million and a GDP of \$1.1 trillion. Attend to inquiries and disseminate information about firms. Identify new potential customers and strengthen relations with the existing ones.

Establish bi-directional business linkages, identify agents, negotiate offers which may result in actual orders, develop relationships network, Meet potential partners that can lead to far reaching business alliances and Reaffirm your place as an important industry player in your sector (Canada-Nigeria, 2016). Gather vital industry and market information e.g., Keeping abreast of product and industry innovations; Knowing what competitors do, Learning the latest sales and promotion techniques, Explore new alternatives and observe the trends, compare and exchange experience with others, get sufficient visibility and exposure in the international market.

Nigeria-Canada Socio-Political Relations

With a population of over 180 million, Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa with one fifth of all sub-Saharan Africans living within its borders. Endowed with good access to skills, capital, technology, fertile land, oil and mineral resources, Nigeria has enormous potential. The country's return to civilian government in 1999, followed by sound fiscal policy decisions, has brought economic stability and real gains in rural incomes. Nigeria is Africa's largest economy and its strategic geographic location makes its stability important to the region (Global Affairs Canada, 2015).

On political relation between both countries, Canada has provided support to the 1999, 2003 and 2007 elections and also the 2015 general elections that were held in Nigeria purposely to support the long-term electoral cycle. Since September 2010, Canada sponsored technical assistance to Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). Canada continues to provide support to groups and institutions that work to strengthen democracy, accountability, good governance, and religious freedom in Nigeria (Nigeria Canada Forum, 2015).

Canadian and Nigerian officials have exchanged proposals for an Air Transport Agreement. Canada has supported Nigeria in strengthening health care delivery at the community level, preventing and treating major illnesses that contribute to maternal and child mortality, and helping to eradicate polio in Nigeria. This assistance is aimed at reducing the maternal mortality rate in Nigeria, which is high at 630 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2010. The neonatal, infant and under-five mortality rates are similarly high and the country has the second highest rate of newborn deaths worldwide (Nigeria Canada Forum, 2014).

In spite of the relationship between Nigeria and Canada, the challenges Nigeria faces are staggering: the country ranks 152 out of 187 countries on the United Nations 2014 Human Development Index (HDI), and more than three out of five Nigerians live on less than \$1.25 per day but with the recent rise in dollar, Nigerians live below a dollar per day. Nigerians, particularly women and children, experience some of the worst threats to health in Africa. Despite having only two percent of the world's population, Nigeria accounts for 10 percent of global maternal mortality. One in six children born in Nigeria will not reach his or her fifth birthday, and the country has the second-highest rate of newborn deaths worldwide (Global Affairs Canada, 2015).

The maternal mortality rate is 630 deaths per 100,000 live births; neonatal mortality is 39 deaths per 1,000 live births; infant mortality is 78 deaths per 1,000 live births; and out of 1,000 children under the age of five, 124 die. Nigeria also has low immunization coverage and is one of the three remaining endemic countries for polio. Access to basic public services is grossly inadequate to meet the needs of the greater part of the population. Nigeria is a young and relatively stable democracy. Its public institutions are still fragile and face the challenge of encouraging unity in a country divided along lines of ethnicity, religion, regionalism and class each with vastly opposing interests (Global Affairs Canada, 2015).

Instability and insecurity are major risk factors, and the country has suffered from significant violence since 2010. Attacks over the past six years, largely led by the Islamist terrorist group Boko Haram, have occurred in many locations but particularly in the north-east of the country. Nearly half of the population in the north-east has been affected by the ongoing Boko Haram violence. Nigeria is also extremely vulnerable to the impact of climate change including rising sea levels, and changing seasons and rain patterns, which affect agriculture and increase desertification. Three out of four rural Nigerians depend on natural resources for their livelihood (Global Affairs Canada, 2015).

Canada is helping Nigeria to increase child survival by improving primary health care systems at the local level and reducing preventable childhood diseases. These help includes support to enhance the skills and knowledge of front line community health workers. Canada supports efforts to improve harmonization, information and accountability in the Nigerian health sector, and signed the 2010 Health Sector Compact, initiated by the International Health Partnership. Through this commitment, Canada has increased efforts to work in harmonization with other development partners and to align its programs with

the plans and priorities of the Government of Nigeria, particularly the Nigeria National Health Sector Development Plan (NSHDP 2010-2015 and upcoming 2016-2020 NSHDP 2) and the Integrated Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (IMNCH) Strategy (Global Affairs Canada, 2015).

Canada's support to Nigeria on health care basis has been exemplified in the following ways: Canada has helped to strengthen the skills of 2,000 nurses, midwives and community health extension workers through support for training in life-saving skills to manage and promptly refer emergency obstetric and neonatal complications, in particular in underserved areas.

Canada has supported twice-yearly Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) Weeks, which provide key health services to mothers and children, contributing to Nigeria reaching 5.4 million pregnant women with key health messages and services such as tetanus vaccination and iron supplements, and 27 million children with services such as immunization, de-worming, vitamin A supplementation, bed nets to prevent malaria, and birth certificates.

Canada has provided an estimated two million children (1 to 5 years of age) with de-worming tablets; provided 850,000 pregnant women with blood-building tablets to prevent anemia; and 573,000 caregivers were counseled on hand washing and key household practices. Canada has provided an estimated 200,000 children with birth certificates, and 270,000 children were screened for malnutrition.

Canada has helped Nigeria to enable the vaccination of 4.8 million children with oral polio vaccine and contributed to a reduction in the number of cases of wild polio virus, falling from 103 in 2012-2013 to 37 in 2013-2014 up to 2016 with no record until lately where three cases were recorded. Canada intends contributing the sum of \$20 million to help eradicate polio in Nigeria (Levon, S, 2016). The polio eradication drive implemented by the World Health Organization (WHO) will help immunize approximately 6.6 million girls and 6.9 million boys against the crippling and potentially deadly infectious disease in 11 high-risk Nigerian states. The sum of money contributed will be used to train approximately 154,000 vaccinators and help protect up to 250,000 children from vaccine-preventable diseases (Levon, 2016).

Canada's support to Nigeria on security basis has been exemplified in the following ways:

In response to Boko Haram's expansion and increased targeting of the civilian population, the Government of Nigeria has increased its counterinsurgency operations and use of force in late 2013/early 2014 which exacerbated violence and displacement in the region. As many as 3.3 million people have been internally displaced in the country by violence, representing the largest displaced population in Africa and the third largest in the world behind Syria and Colombia. The escalating conflict between the Nigerian government and Boko Haram terrorist sect has attracted a large flow of people into the territory of Niger. In late September 2014, it was estimated that more than 105,000 displaced people were in the Diffa region. Food security was a growing concern along with the scarcity of basic goods, housing, health, access to water, and protection (Humanitarian Coalition, 2014).

To these immediate needs have been added those of local host communities. It is in this context that CARE Canada intervened alongside the Nigerian government and its humanitarian partners, to meet the needs in food security and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) of some 14,000 people (9,360 nationals, 2,640 refugees and 2,000 members of host families) affected by the Boko-Haram crisis and local food insecurity in the Diffa region of Niger. With the CHAF funds, CARE worked to increase household income/livelihood security and improve purchasing power of 1,000 households (most affected host families, refugees and returnees) in Diffa through unconditional cash grants. The hygiene and sanitation of 14,000 affected persons was improved with hygiene kits and access to safe drinking water (Humanitarian Coalition, 2014).

The total sum of \$250,000 was allocated by CARE Canada to meet the food security and wash needs of approximately 14,000 people affected by the North-East Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria and local food insecurity in the Diffa region of Niger. The assistance centered on 47% food security, water and sanitization on 53%. Total population helped were 14,000 including 1,563 children (Humanitarian Coalition, 2014).

In response to the humanitarian needs in the Lake Chad Basin region, including those related to the growing insecurity caused by regional terrorism, Canada is providing more than 26 million Canadian dollars in humanitarian assistance in 2016. This support will help to provide food, drinking water, hygiene, sanitation and health services, treatment for acute malnutrition and support for livelihoods for vulnerable populations, including refugees, internally displaced persons and communities hosting refugees (Zacheaus, S, 2016). Canada's partners in this respect include the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), CARE, l'Œuvre Léger, Oxfam Québec, Development and Peace, Action Against Hunger and the Norwegian Refugee Council (Zacheaus, S, 2016).

Nigeria and Canada Bilateral Relations Benefits

In effort to buttress the academic debate on Nigeria and Canada bilateral relations on economic and socio-political development, it is essential to note that both countries have benefitted from their relations but the most benefitted country is Canada. This is because Canada has continued to put into consideration and practice of all the pertinent key factors to boost the development of her economy, social and political facets.

In the case of Nigeria, corruption which is the primary cause of staggering economy has continued to hinder development in all major aspects of the country. Nigeria has depended solely on crude oil as the major source of generating revenue unlike Canada where oil is just 3% of her economy. The country is import and export oriented and this has continued to accelerate the growth of local industries but in the case of Nigeria, the country is import oriented and this has continued to hinder the growth of local industries.

From the said above, it is obvious that Canada has benefitted most from her relation with Nigeria because her political social and economic aspects are growing day in day out compare to the Nigeria economy which is at a brink.

Findings

The findings from the study are as follows;

Nigeria and Canada are both partners but when it comes to the level of development in both countries, Canada is fast growing because the country relies on diversified economy. Oil and gas which Nigeria solely depends on is just 3% to 4% of Canada's economy. In the case of Nigeria, the country depends on crude oil solely and 80% of Nigeria revenue is generated from Oil and this has hindered Nigeria economic development because less attention has been given to other sectors such as agriculture, tourism, energy, telecommunication, mining among others which would have generated more income for Nigeria.

It has become difficult for the economy of Nigeria to progressively develop compared to that of Canada because of higher level of corrupt practices compared to Canada. The fund that is disbursed for projects are usually siphoned by single or few groups of individuals in Nigeria and this has greatly hindered development in the country. On the other hand, it has weakened Canada's interest in other sectors in Nigeria such as mining because it is difficult for Canada to be duly involved in business transactions with Nigeria that is corrupt prone.

Nigeria is an import oriented economy. Even commodities that are available in Nigeria in large commodities are still been imported a good example is rice. Canada on the other is even exporting commodities from Nigeria to Canada. A good example is cocoa among other commodities. Nigeria can hardly export commodities without undergoing scrutiny or even rejection of such commodities.

In the education sector, educational system in Canada is appealing with well developed curriculum and flexible Learning Avenue compared to Nigeria where the educational system is bedeviled by numerous setbacks such as inadequate equipped facilities like a standard libraries with essential books, weak conducive learning atmosphere, and inadequate qualified teachers among others. These setbacks has made education in Nigeria less attractive compare to Canada's educational system where the required

facilities to make education enjoyable are provided. Best brains in Nigeria are migrating out of the country because the chances of imputing their knowledge for the development in the country are limited.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Nigeria and Canada have been partners for years and the bilateral relations have been confirmed in this study as a progressive one. However, there is trade imbalance between Nigeria and Canada because the latter has a superior advantage of Balance of Trade and Balance of Payment than Nigeria. Nigeria could then be said to be junior partner in the bilateral relations between both countries. It is obvious in this study that Nigeria has benefitted immensely from Canada in their bilateral relations but the level of Nigeria's economic development is slow. It is therefore necessary for Nigeria to do the needful in order to resuscitate Nigeria's economy.

The study therefore recommends the following;

Nigeria government should put all things in place to ensure that corruption is reduced to the barest minimum level. By so doing, countries of the world can come into Nigeria to invest productively. Nigeria should diversify her economy to other sectors particularly, agriculture, mining, tourism to generate more income for the economy. Nigeria should shift her economy from been an import-oriented country to an export-oriented economy, by importing only things that she can't produce and encourage local industries to grow. Nigeria should exploit her population as an opportunity to increase her level of production. The country should encourage good governance because this is very germane to the development of any nation. All the Nigeria's owned companies and refineries should be reawakened and there should be optimal functioning to boost the development of the country.

References

- Andrew, M. (2010). *Liberal international relations theory: a social scientific assessment* in European Union Center, and Faculty Associate of the Weather head Center for International Affairs at Harvard University.
http://projects.iq.harvard.edu/files/wcfia/files/607_moravscik.pdf
- Canada Nigeria (2016). Canada-Nigeria B2b trade show and conferences. http://www.canadian-nigerianb2b.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Registration_Information.pdf retrieved on 15-08-2016
- EDC (2014). Country Info. <http://www.edc.ca/EN/Country-Info/Pages/Nigeria.aspx> retrieved 15 - 08 - 2016
- Global Affairs Canada (2015). <http://www.international.gc.ca/development-developpement/countries-pays/nigeria.aspx?lang=eng> retrieved on 17th of August 2016
- Humanitarian Coalition (2014). CHAF Annual Report
http://humanitariancoalition.ca/sites/default/files/basic-page/chaf_ar-en-final.pdf retrieved on 15th August, 2016
- High Commission of Canada in Nigeria (2014).
http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/nigeria_draft/bilateral_relations_bilaterales/canada_nigeria.aspx?lang=en retrieved on 17-08-2016
- Jose. A.R (2013). Signature of Canada-Nigeria: Africa International Legal Awareness.
<http://blogaila.com/2013/05/05/signature-of-canada-nigeria-fipa-by-jose-angel-rueda/>
- Levon. S (2016). Canada invests \$20M in Nigeria's polio eradication drive, in Radio Canada International. <http://www.rcinet.ca/en/2016/05/16/canada-nigeria-polio-vaccination-program/> retrieve don 23rd-08-2016
- Onwuka. N (2016). Canada ready to assist Nigeria on loot recovery, terrorism – High Commissioner in New Telegraph <http://newtelegraphonline.com/canada-ready-assist-nigeria-loot-recovery-terrorism-high-commissioner/> retrieved on 18th-August-2016

- Oscarline .O (2011). Canadian Companies to Invest in Nigeria's Hydro Power Stations. <http://sweetcrudereports.com/2011/10/25/canadian-companies-to-invest-in-nigerias-hydro-power-stations/> retrieved on 23rd-08-2016
- NCAFM (2010). Nigerian Canadian Association of Fort McMurray" Objectives of Nigerian Canadian Foreign Relations <http://ncafm.ca/objectives> retrieved on 19-08-2016
- Nigeria Canada Forum (2014). <http://nigeriacanadaforum.org/index.php/8-about-ncf/5-nigeria-canada-relations> retrieved on 17-08-2016
- Steven .C (2014). Canada moves in to Nigeria to aid in search for kidnapped girls. *The Globe and Mail* <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/canada-moves-in-to-nigeria-to-aid-in-search-for-kidnapped-girls/article18653370/> retrieved on 23rd-08-2016
- Zacheaus. S (2016). Nigeria: Canada to Provide U.S.\$26 Million in Humanitarian Needs to Nigeria. <http://allafrica.com/stories/201606060158.html> retrieved on 17-08-2016