SETTING MOMENTUM FOR SUB-SAHARA AFRICA SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT; RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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ABSTRACT

This subject, setting momentum for sub-Sahara Africa sustainable development tries to highlight the effort being put in place by Sub-Sahara Africa leaders to bring about the necessary development change by enhancing both political and economic policies through research and innovation which encourage growth. Sub-Sahara Africa can be said the continent of Black People who have common heritage and challenges. She is richly endowed with abundant human and natural resources. The Region is blessed with a variety of mineral deposits including petroleum, natural gas, uranium, tin, columbines, coal, precious metal, gemstone, copper, aluminum, gold and a vast Agricultural farmlands. However, despite all these endowment the region is plagued by underdevelopment riddled with poverty. Sub-Sahara Africa development in the last decade is something of cheerful news, though varied. This paper through information researched from the World Bank and IMF try to analyze this developmental polices and its attendant effect and also suggest ways forward. The work adopted empirical method of data analysis sourced from IMF/World Bank. Using the historical context to stratify the growth into three distinct phases, each relating to a dominant development policy regime and strategy by sub-Sahara Africa leaders in an effort to increase industrial and human capacity and liberate her people from the stronghold of poverty through research and innovation. The result in the first phase revealed that characterized with pervasive failures where market fundamentalism reigned supreme with recourse to no noticeable development change. While the second era witnessed increase in democratic governments in Sub-Sahara Africa and less regional conflict. And the last phase witnessed sustainable development with increased growth rate in non-oil export. This work among others recommend that Sub-Sahara African government should therefore do more to develop human capacity and address all other development challenges as represented by inadequate infrastructure, high rates of poverty and income inequality, building institutions to sustain change so far achieved and enhancing governance to promote integrity, foster behavioural incentives and reduce policy uncertainty that could help to spur a private sector-led economy.

Keywords: Sub-Sahara Africa, Sustainable, development, research, innovation, entrepreneurship, political

INTRODUCTION
Sub-Saharan Africa is geographically the area of the continent of Africa that lies south of the Sahara Desert. Politically, it consists of all African countries that are fully or partially located south of the Sahara (excluding Sudan, even though Sudan sits in the Eastern portion of the Sahara desert). It contrasts with North Africa, which is considered a part of the Arab world. Somalia, Djibouti, Comoros, and Mauritania are geographically part of Sub-Saharan Africa, but also part of the Arab world-Wikipedia.

Sustainable Development is defined as management of the earth's resources such that their long term quality and abundance is ensured for future generation. This is what Africa lacked in the past and this is what Research and Innovation is setting Sub-Sahara African into. Therefore, Sub-Sahara Africa can be said the continent of Black People who have common heritage and challenges. She is richly endowed with abundant human and natural resources. The Region is blessed with a variety of mineral deposits including petroleum, natural gas, uranium, tin, columbines, coal, precious metal, gemstone, copper, aluminum, gold and a vast Agricultural farmlands. The Region can be said not economically developed because she has so many features of underdevelopment which among others include high unemployment rates, heavy dependence on oil, low agricultural production, low utilization of industrial capacity, high inflation rate, low literacy level, poor state of infrastructure, low income per head, subsistence agricultural practices, low industrial capacity, absence of stable polity, high infant mortality and lack of industrial infrastructural base. These constrains have enormously limited the human and economic development of this region and allow her people to live in poverty.

However, Sub-Sahara Africa development in the last decade is something of cheerful news, though varied. After a spurt of post-independence economic growth and nascent structural and social transformation, external shocks, poor policy responses, and ineffective development strategies resulted in economic stagnation in the 1980s; the gains of the first two decades of independence were quickly wiped out, and poverty intensified. The continued military intervention aided corruption which mitigated sane society for probable development. In the recent past, however, democracy seems to have ushered in the necessary environment for development. Countries such as Nigeria, South-Africa, Rwanda, Mauritius, Ghana and Burundi are showing signs of emerging Economies of the World. The past decade has been characterized by sustained economic growth and considerable political stability, leading to the recent euphoria on African renaissance.

The Sub-Sahara private sector is becoming increasingly powerful engine driving this growth, with many countries enacting better industrial policies and increasing growth in the financial industry. In the past, policy summersault and lack of strong indigenous financial institution capable of financing big contract were serious constraints to her development. Foreign direct investment has also increased by a factor of six over the past decade. It is increasingly evident that Sub-Africa is on its way to becoming a preferred investment destination, a potential pole of global growth, and a place of immense innovation and creativity.
Moreover, there are still some palpable challenges. The recent growth witnessed in the region has not been accompanied by structural transformation, human development and capacity utilization thereby generating employment. Indeed, the economic structure of several African countries, especially resource-rich countries, have become more concentrated, making them more vulnerable to external shocks as seen in fall in the price of crude oil and Nigeria economy. Sub-Saharan Africa Nations have remained low in the Human development Index (HDI). A reasonable development, therefore, should be inclusive so as to affect the lives of the ordinary citizens.

However, growth in sub-Saharan Africa has remained generally robust and is expected to gradually pick up in the coming years. Although near-term risks to the global economy have receded, recovery in the advanced economies is likely to be gradual and differentiated, acting as a drag on global growth, which is set to increase slowly from a trough in 2012. Some factors have supported this growth in sub-Saharan Africa through the Great Recession—strong investment, favorable commodity prices, generally prudent macroeconomic management—remain in place, while supply-side developments is generally favorable. Macroeconomic policy requirements differ across countries, but rebuilding policy buffers to handle adverse external shocks remains a priority in many Countries-(IMF, 2013)

LITERATURE
Researches and Innovations are acts synonymous with Entrepreneurship which is the engine that drive the economy growth of any society. Sub-Sahara Africa’s private sector has become an increasingly powerful engine for change, driving innovation and transforming outdated business models. Economies are better driven by the private sectors initiative backed-up by research, innovation and creativity under good Government socioeconomic policies.

Sub-Sahara Africa nations in an effort to create enabling environment has been grappling with many socioeconomic policies which did not in many ways support the required development necessary to bring her out of the under-development quagmire. These polices failed because they were not designed in reality of the socioeconomic problems of the region or were not supported by the western development institutions partners.

This chapter will be reviewing policies undertaken by Sub-Sahara Africa under OAU/AU and Entrepreneurship as act of Research and Innovation for setting momentum for Sub-Sahara Africa sustainable development.

The Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) era in Africa commenced in the mid-1980s, when many African countries lost the growth momentum of the first fifteen years of independence and also experienced a severe balance of payments crisis resulting from the cumulative effects of the first oil shock, the decline in commodity prices, and the growing import needs of domestic industries. In order to manage the crisis, many countries sought financial assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. African countries that obtained the
financial support of the IMF and World Bank had to adopt the SAP, which required them to implement certain policy reforms. As a result, the mid-1980s witnessed the formulation and implementation by most African countries of wide-ranging economic policy reforms, including: (a) deregulation of interest rates; (b) trade liberalization; (c) privatization of state-owned enterprises; (d) withdrawal of subsidies; and (e) currency devaluation. A key objective of SAP was to reduce the role of the state in the development process and give market forces a greater role in the allocation of resources. The assumption was that markets are more efficient than the state in resource allocation and that the appropriate role of the latter should be to provide an enabling environment for the private sector to flourish.

Despite the vigorous implementation of SAP in many African countries, economic performance continued to lag behind that of other developing regions. Indeed, by the beginning of the 1990s, when the impact of SAP policies had become manifest, Africa had become the slowest growing region in the world (see Figure 1).

*Figure 1: Annual GDP Growth Rates: Africa and Other Developing Regions, 1960-1985*

![Graph showing annual GDP growth rates from 1961 to 1985 for different regions.](image)

Source: World Bank (2011) World Development Indicators

However, beginning in the mid-1990s, African countries started to experience considerable growth revival, but structural transformation remained imperceptible as the contributions of agriculture to GDP in Africa increased slightly while the contributions of manufacturing continued to decline.

*Annual GDP Growth Rates: Africa and Other Developing Regions, 1986-1995*
The picture is quite different in East Asia Pacific (EAP), where manufacturing contributions to GDP remained high and rising. Evidently, the declining contributions of manufacturing to GDP in Africa are stark manifestations of the de-industrialization that occurred during the SAP period in the region. It’s a common knowledge by the ordinary citizens that the continent plummeted by the introduction of Structural Adjustment Program.

Clearly, the SAP policies failed to deliver on development in Africa, the growth revival of the first half of 1990s notwithstanding. Africa suffered serious de-industrialization which swelled the rudimentary service sector dominated by low productivity distributive trade activities, and poverty became a serious concern in the region. By the end of the 1990s, therefore, the IFIs had started to reconsider their approaches and practices in the developing countries. Eventually, a joint initiative launched by the IFIs at the end of 1999 put the fight against poverty at the heart of growth and development policies.

Fig 3 Annual GDP GROWTH RATES: SSA and other DEVELOPING REGION 1996-2006
Apparently, the IFIs ignored the deleterious effects of the SAPs on structural transformation in Africa. As a result, low-income countries wishing to apply for financial aid or for debt relief under the HIPC (Heavily Indebted Poor Countries) Initiative were required to draw up poverty reduction programs known as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs). At the same time, the United Nations system was actively engaged in setting the millennium development goals (MDG) targets culminating in the Millennium Declaration in 2000, with poverty reduction at its heart, while remaining silent on the issue of structural transformation. A hallmark of these initiatives is the continued reliance on market fundamentalism to undergird development policies; state intervention remained anathema.

**Development policy and practice in Africa**

The intellectual underpinnings of development have grown and evolved over six decades into a daunting and formidable array of ideas, concepts, theories, empirical studies, and distinct schools of thought. Consequently, there has been a fundamental change in development policy thinking over time. The “twists and turns” in the field, especially the role of the state in accelerating development, have had profound implications for development policy and practice in Africa over time.

**New Partnership for Africa’s Development**
In the last decade and half, a renewed urge to reclaim development agenda setting in Africa by African leaders was galvanized with the establishment in October 2001 of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD). NEPAD is the second major attempt by African leaders, after the aborted Lagos Plan of Action, to muster a collective will to engineer economic development in Africa. It represents a pledge by African leaders, based on a common vision and a firm and shared conviction that they have a pressing duty to eradicate poverty and to place their countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development, and at the same time to prepare them to participate actively in the world economy and global politics.

NEPAD has seven priority areas of intervention:
1. Strengthening mechanisms for conflict prevention, management, and resolution;
2. Promoting and protecting democracy and human rights;
3. Restoring and maintaining macroeconomic stability;
4. Revitalizing and extending the provision of education, technical training, and health services, with high priority accorded to HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other communicable diseases;
5. Promoting the role of women in social and economic development;
6. Building the capacity of the states in Africa; and
7. Promoting the development of infrastructure, agriculture and its diversification.

To achieve the above, NEPAD calls for policy reforms and increased investments in the priority areas of agriculture and food security, science and technology, environment, trade and market access, governance, infrastructure (energy, transport and water sanitation, and information and communication technologies), gender, and capacity development. NEPAD, in conjunction with the African Development Bank and the UNECA, also continues to emphasize the participation of the private sector, civil society organizations, and the African Diaspora in fostering development on the continent.

Unlike previous initiatives by African leaders and their institutions, NEPAD neither challenged the orthodoxy nor emphasized structural transformation and government intervention. Accordingly, the developed world typified by the G8 has given tacit approval and overwhelming support to the NEPAD initiative, apparently because it is perceived to be in tune with the prevailing new orthodoxy in development thinking.

**The Concept of Entrepreneurship**

Entrepreneurship is more than simply “starting a business”. It is a process through which individuals identify opportunities, allocate resources, and create value. This creation of value is often through the identification of unmet needs or through the identification of opportunities for change. It is the act of being an entrepreneur which is seen as “one who undertakes innovations with finance and business acumen in an effort to transform innovations into economic goods hence entrepreneurs see “problems” as “opportunities” and then take action to identify the solutions to those problems and the customers who will pay to have those problems solved.
Entrepreneurial success is simply a function of the ability of an entrepreneur to see opportunities in the marketplace, initiate change (or take advantage of change) and creates value through solutions. Entrepreneurship is known as the capacity and attitude of a person or group of persons to undertake ventures with the probability of success or failures. It demands that the individual should be prepared to assume a reasonable degree of risks, be a good leader in addition to being highly innovative. In business management, Entrepreneurship is regarded as the “prime mover” of a successful enterprise just as a leader in any organization must be the environmental change agents. UNDP (2010) defined entrepreneurship as the process of using private initiative to transform a business concept into a new venture or to grow and diversify an existing venture or enterprise with high growth potential. To Shane (2010), entrepreneurship is the act of being an entrepreneur, which can be defined as “one who undertakes innovations, finances and displays business acumen in an effort to transform innovations into economic goods”. This may result in new organizations or may be part of revitalizing mature organizations in response to a perceived opportunity. The most obvious form of entrepreneurship is that of starting new businesses (referred to as Startup Company); however, in recent years, the term has been extended to include social and political forms of entrepreneurial activity.

Entrepreneurship is describing activities within a firm or large organizations, it is referred to as intra-preneurship and may include corporate venturing, when large entities spin-off organizations. Garba (2010) asserted that the term entrepreneurship means different things to different people and with varying conceptual perspectives. He stated that in spite of these differences, there are some common aspects such as risk taking, creativity, independence and rewards. The concept of entrepreneurship has a wide range of meanings. It was first used in the early 18th century by an Irish man by name Rechard Cantillon who was then living in France. On the extreme, it is a term used broadly in connection within the innovation of modern industrial business leader, which describe an originator of a profitable business idea (Akanni, 2010). According to Joseph Schumpeter, an Australian economist, the single function which constitute entrepreneurship concept is innovation, such innovation results in new demand. Entrepreneurship is therefore a process which involves the creation of an innovative economic organization for the purpose of gain or growth under condition of risk and uncertainty (Dollinger, 2011 quoted in Akanni, 2010). Vanderwerf and Brush, 1989 quoted in Akanni, 2010 after reviewing twenty-five definitions, concluded that entrepreneurship is a business activity consisting of some intersections of the following behaviours: creativity, innovation, general management, risk bearing and intention to realize high levels of growth. Hisrich and Peters (1992) state that entrepreneurship is a continuous process of creating something different that has value to the users. Entrepreneurship has also been defined as the act of being an entrepreneur, which can be defined as one who undertakes innovation, finance and business acumen in an effort to transform innovation into economic goods. This may result in new organization or may be part of revitalizing mature organization in response to a perceived opportunity. (Wikipedia, 2010).
The act by government in formulating policy and creating investment opportunities can also be liken to entrepreneurship. Like individuals, governments also identify opportunities, allocate her scarce resources and create value. The inabilities of Africa leaders to effectively distribute and manage resources have been a clog in the wheel of progress, however, there has been underpinning of development which has grown and evolved over the six decades of independence into daunting formidable arrays of ideas, concepts, and theories, empirical studies and distinct school of thoughts among Sub-Sahara Africa leaders. This is bringing the recent sustainable development being witnessed.

**Methodology**

This worked tend to use empirical data from the World Bank to analyze the research. Using the historical context to stratify the growth into three distinct phases, each relating to a dominant development policy regime and strategy by sub-Sahara Africa leaders in an effort to increase industrial and human capacity and liberate her people from the stronghold of poverty through research and innovation.

The phase one witnessed the Structural Adjustment Program era (1986-1995). The era was characterized with pervasive failures and market fundamentalism reigned supreme with recourse to any noticeable development change.

The next phase (1996-2010) era, as better captured by Ajakaiye and Jerome-(2013), which they described as the neo-liberal policy era, essentially rooted in the market fundamentalism but nuisance to accommodate poverty inequality and other concerns of the international community such as good governance and climate change. It was era that witnessed increase in democratic governments in Sub-Sahara Africa and less regional conflict.

The last phase (2011-2014) era, has witnessed the sustained development achieved in the last era with increased growth in non oil export. Investment in public infrastructure, increased agriculture production, and buoyant services were key drivers of growth. Infrastructure investment across the region, for example, in ports, electricity capacity, and transportation, helped to sustain growth. Services sector expansion, led by transport, telecommunication and financial services, spearheaded growth in countries such as Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda.
The recent fall in oil price notwithstanding should be a catalyst among the oil resource nations for diversification of their economy. Increased agricultural production has also been found to buoyed growth. A record maize harvest in Zambia more than offset the decline in copper production. A strong increase in cocoa production lifted output in Côte d'Ivoire, despite concerns that the Ebola outbreak might disrupt the industry. Nigeria rice importation has dropped from more than a trillion ton to about 540 billion. By contrast, in Nigeria, the region’s largest economy, activity expanded at a robust pace, supported by a buoyant non-oil sector.

Entrepreneurship is fast gaining momentum among Africa leaders in the recent time. In Nigeria, government has encouraged the growth of entrepreneurs to help drive growth and development as could be found in Dangote, Jim Ovie, Tony Elumelu etc which are beginning to play serious role, establishing business organizations with international outlook.

Among frontier market countries, growth is expected to increase in Kenya, boosted by higher public investment and the recovery of agriculture and tourism. Growth should remain robust in Zambia, as new large copper mining projects start producing and agriculture continues to recover. Real GDP growth is expected to strengthen in fragile states, such as Madagascar, as investment rises on the back of improved political stability. Oil importers would benefit from low oil prices, especially as the prices of their agricultural commodities (including coffee, cocoa, and tobacco) remain stable.

**Fig5 GDP Growth**
Now looking at the figure above growth in Sub-Sahara Africa can be said hopeful. Development can be expanded by increasing trade between the region countries. The Sub-Sahara Africa can stop the importation of items/ products which are easily produced within or encourage the set up of companies which can produced such goods. Policies that encourage indigenous production collectively must be enacted through joint effort. The sub-regional organization such as ECOWAS, SADC, and ECCAS should enforce treaties already entered into to promote trade. The idea where the developed region trying to capitalize on the Sub-Sahara Africa resent development to go into agreement on free trade is not acceptable, rather the region should reintegeate to form a common market block. Trade liberalization from EU and Asia will rather turn the region to dumping ground for their goods and services denying Africa indigenous companies who don’t have the financial muscles to compete favourably.

**Conclusion**
In any economy, irrespective of the abundance of resources, one has to priorities spending, improve efficiency to get more value for money, and ensure decisions taken into account the long term benefits and cost of these investments. This is even more essential when resources are constrained or when obtaining resources could result in burden in the future. The Sub-Sahara Africa governments and her people as a matter of necessity are in need of quick development therefore, research and innovation cum entrepreneurship if well articulated will bring that desire sustainable development. In all Sub-Sahara Africa despite the enormous challenge facing it, it is in the part of sustaining growth which will liberate her from the jugular of underdevelopment.

**Recommendation**
The Sub-Sahara African government should therefore do more to develop human capacity and address all other development challenges as represented by inadequate infrastructure, high rates of poverty and income inequality, building institutions to sustain change so far achieved and enhancing governance to promote integrity, foster behavioural incentives and reduce policy
uncertainty that could help to spur a private sector-led economy. All these are critical to realizing sustainable inclusive growth and achieve medium and long term potential of the Sub-Saharan Africa region. Governments in the region are encouraged to pursue policies that preserve economic and financial stability. In view of the expected risks, there is need for governments to act as a steadying force. Governments should strengthen fiscal positions and restore fiscal buffers to increase resilience against external and internal shocks. Also, governments should go into structural reforms so as to increase potential output growth- there is an acute deficit in infrastructure such as energy and roads. It is important that improvements in public investment management systems are accompanied by efforts to ensure that resources are distributed to the most productive ends. These reforms should aim at strengthening project selection, execution, and monitoring, and encourage transparency and accountability in the use of public funds.

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