

**REFOCUSING NIGERIA MIGRATION  
POLICY FOR CHANGING IMPACT  
ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT:  
ASSESSMENT OF THE NATIONAL  
MIGRATION POLICY OF 2015**

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**ABSTRACT**

*The study focused on migration policies in Nigeria and their impacts on national development with specific focus on the Nigeria National Migration Policy of 2015 which was formulated to foster national development. The goal of the study was to examine the impact of migration policy on national development adopting the 2015 National Migration Policy of Nigeria. The study adopted the Modernisation Theory and theory of Change as the theoretical framework. The study obtained data from secondary sources through indexes of scholars' work on related literature such as journal publications, books, articles among others. The paper revealed that despite government effort to foster national development through migration policies, certain factors like policy incoherence and*

*ambiguity, inadequate policy integration and implementation, poor database, insecurity, hunger, poverty, unemployment, unstable economy among other had constituted hiccups to migration policies' influence and effectiveness on national development. Thus, the paper concluded that the incoherence and ambiguity of the policy contributed to its implementation failure coupled with poor database and monitoring techniques. The study recommended among others, urgent review of migration policies; partnership between government and the society on migration matters; policy coherence, engaging and empowering migrants as development actors through policy.*

**Keywords:** Changing Impact; Development; Migration; Migration Policy; National Development

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**INTRODUCTION**

National Development has been a consistent phenomenon globally. Every country continues to strive towards development through several techniques and innovations. Africa countries and Nigeria in particular had never been exceptional in the quest for National Development just like every other country in the world whether classified as developed or developing. National development is enhanced through several sectors of the economy and in all human endeavours. Over the years, most fast developed countries had been observed to have adopted several tools such as technology, science, resources and migration as mechanism through which their economy had been advanced. Thus, Sander, Abel and Riosmena (2013) depicted that those economic forces such as technology, environmental, demographic, policy, politics, migration among others play vital roles in development.

Migration has been one major factor that greatly contribute towards national development through adoption of migration policies as it differs from country to country. De Haas (2020) observed that migration had been a tool with which most advanced countries became wealthier and developed over the years. In fact, by specifications, immigration is expected to increase linearly with development whereby countries become progressively attractive to foreigners who can boost the economy (De Haas, 2020). The systematic way of encouraging migration with the aim of enhancing national development is a shift in global population with the believe to redistribute resources among countries in the world (Billari, 2022).

Migration Policies had been a guide on migration matters in Nigeria with the goals of attracting and encouraging migrants with quality potentials, skills, knowledge and technology required to drive and develop the country's economy. Thus, Charles-Edward, Bernard and Abel (2023) opined that the availability of international migrants could present opportunities for cross-fertiliser of techniques, knowledge and skills needed in fostering any country's national development. This has been a weapon most developed countries uses to drain brains, technocrats, intellectuals, economy boosters from various origins with the hope of developing their countries generally (Czaika and De Haas; 2014). The most touching part of migration policies in several countries is that migration continues to occur as movement between neighbouring countries (UN, 2019). This does not negate the fact that there are internal and distant migrations. The United Nations (2022) observed that data on global migration had captured a tremendous flow during which, most countries change economically, politically, environmentally and so on.

Nigeria migration policy had posed some challenges on foreign direct investors and business gurus who are interested in driving any economy for their profit maximisation, high rate of tariff, export and import duties, exchange rate among other factors which had prevented immigration which could serve as a tool for economic, social and national development in Nigeria. In fact, the Nigeria economy predicament had driven many Nigerians away to foreign countries. It is therefore necessary for the government to combat brain drain, underdevelopment, economy and migration challenges. Against this background, the paper tends to redirect the focus of Nigeria migration policy for changing the narrative towards impactful national development.

#### **STATEMENT OF PROBLEM**

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa well endeavoured with natural and human resources which if well harnessed could foster her national development. The human resources are fundamental to fostering national development. In fact, development is a critical issue confronting the universe today, yet, meaningful and pathways to development are not always straight (Olutayo, Omobowale and Akanle (2015). Development itself is a product of history, human beings with little or no regulation would go beyond the limit to exploit whatever situation they find themselves in sustenance and furtherance of benefits. Hence, migration became germane to mankind. Government and stakeholders had made efforts towards regulation of migration in Nigeria, because migration of Nigerians can make or mar the economy. Thus, Olayinka and Olayinka (2022) observed that migration out of Africa and Nigeria is still occasioned by many uncomplimentary factors such as unemployment, low wages, low saving, sluggish economy growth,

insecurity, poverty, etc. This can negate the development of the country.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (2009) on the other hand had observed that emigration can foster national development, in the sense that increased support for diaspora enterprises and investment, encouragement and support for foreign direct investors are crucial for development of the Africa continent. De Haas (2006) added that remittance, support and investment from diaspora play fundamental roles in poverty reduction, creation of job opportunities, improved livelihood, harness innovation, technology and capital creation thereby during the multiplier effects on income distribution which tends to develop the country.

Despite government efforts geared towards leveraging migration through policy, as a means to changing the impact of migration on national development, there seems to be factors determining national development and government efforts on migration policy. It is against this backdrop that this paper attempts to review the Nigeria Migration Policy of 2015, identify the challenges mitigating against migration as a tool for sustainable national development and proffer possible remedies that will foster changing impact of migration on national development in Nigeria.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The paper examined the impact of migration policy on national development with specific focus on assessing the National Migration Policy of 2015. Thus, the purpose of the study is to:

1. Examine the impact of migration policy on national development
2. Review the objectives of the Nigeria National migration Policy of 2015

3. Identify the challenges confronting migration policy in Nigeria
4. Determine factor that propel the changing impact of migration policy on national development.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The method adopted for the study is the descriptive survey and qualitative research design with the aim of having an in-depth knowledge of Nigeria national migration policies and their relationship with national development. The study is theoretical and draws its data from the indexes of scholars' work on relevant areas through journal, articles, books, publications, seminar and conference papers. The data were thoroughly explored and scrutinised to ascertain the impact of migration policy on national development over the years.

### **CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION**

**Migration:** This is the movement of people over a considerable distance with the mindset of forfeiting former home. It is the process of moving from one place to another for peculiar reasons like economic opportunities, environmental factors, insecurity, etc. it is considered as a symptom of basic social change.

**Policy:** Policy is a deliberate system of guidelines to quicks decision which results into rational outcome. It is a statement of intent and is implemented as a procedure or protocol. It is a blue print of activities that are repetitive or routine in nature.

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **Concept of Migration**

Migration as a concept is as old as man's history. It encompasses a wide variety of movements based on different situations that involves humanity in various spheres of life (Ahmed and Abanimebon, 2024).

Through history, migration cut across many people and countries of several generations for several reasons. Migration has been observed to results in the transfer of skills, potentials, knowledge, resources, and technology that have positive impact on productivity and quality service delivery in any working system (IOM, 2018; Ahmed and Abanimebon, 2024). Ahmed and Abanimebon (2024) noted that there are migrants that have volitionally moved to new countries, some placed themselves on foreign shores by their new employers, some live as expatriates and some choose their lifestyle based on job opportunities that is available for them. Migration has positive and negative effects in the migrant depending on a number of considerable factors.

### **Migration Policy**

Migration policy began to gain popularity since the millennium due to complexity of the mechanism and government quest for economic stability. The full gamut of migration desire, intention and reality are occasion mainly for economic gain. Migration policy serves as equilibrium of economy that balances demand and supply force within and across countries. It has the potential of shaping the international flow and can influence global issues. Czaika and De Haas (2014) opined that migration policy determines the inflow and outflow dynamics of travelling policies. The government perception of migration policy is reflected in their leadership of the government (Kanu, et al 2019). Akinyombo and Famiyesi (2023) noted that just like other public policy in Nigeria, migration policy undergone deep scrutiny and analysis and formulation process. Often a time, migration policy address specific issues, set out the scope, strategies, resources, agencies and other factors considerable to foster the

implementation of the policy (Arhin-Sam, 2019; Obano and Odalonu, 2023).

Charles-Edward, Bernard and Abel (2023) opined that migration policies in Nigeria had improved tremendously since the first migration policy was formulated in 2007, several policies had emerged relating to labour migration, diaspora and internally displaced people as well as general issues of migrations. Albert-Makyur and Mbanaso (2022) depicted that migration policy are legal framework and mechanisms that are aimed at regulating migration as well protect migrants across the globe, and so it is not really one of the top priorities of Nigeria government polices when actually compared with other vital Nigeria issues such as economy recession and recovery, corruption, insecurity and other developmental challenges. Arhin-Sam (2019) added that Nigeria migration policies are meant to aid migration issues and reach a progressive relationship with foreign countries like Europe. Furthermore, migration policies are expected to harness high financial remittance from Nigeria diaspora, create conducive environment and reintegrate the Nigeria economy towards national development (Czaika and De Haas, 2014, Olayinka and Olayinka, 2022). However, Obano and Odalonu (2023) and Akinyomba and Famiyesi (2023) keenly observed that Nigeria migration policies are theoretically comprehensive but implementation are deficit. Thus, suffice to say, that some Nigeria policies are theoretically comprehensive and practically ambiguous. Arhin-Sam (2019) added that lack of findings and conflicts over mandate, incoherence and ambiguity are among challenges facing migration policies in Nigeria.

### **Concept of Development**

The term ‘development’ is not solely an economic phenomenon but a multi-

dimensional process that entails reorganisation and reorientation of an entire system. Development is a process of disproportionate growth of systems, that generates economic, technological, social and institutional change to support wealth of nation and improve standard of living for the people (Coccia, 2019; Arhin-Sam, 2019). Development is a dynamic process that encompasses several spheres of life within a given society, and this process brings about changes, whether positive or negative, that impact people, and enhances overall quality of life. Development in this context was perceived by Ajaero et al (2018) as a complex process that is tailored towards holistic change in structure, technology, and environmental with the intention of improving humanity and society. Emelike and Okeke (2019) added that development is easily attained when government foster a comprehensive policy with appropriate mechanism to achieve such policy. For development to occur, its' interconnectivity towards achieving a comprehensive target is essential.

### **National Development**

National development is a phenomenon that encompasses growth and changes. Change in terms of social, cultural, economic, environmental as well as quantitative and qualitative. National development is a phenomenon that embraces the entire nation. Nigeria as a developing country is on fast track towards attainment of development and so, government place priority on development route such as science and technology, agriculture, health, education, migration, etc. Kanu, et al (2019) depicted that national development is achievable once government remove developmental barriers. He further stated that the Nigeria Migration Policy of 2015 was geared towards the enhancement of national

development through its promotion of job opportunities, protection of human rights and addressing several migration challenges.

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **Modernisation theory**

This theory originated from the ideas of the German Sociologist Max Weber and was further developed by Talcott Parson, while Walt Rostow proposed stages for it. The theory postulated that the societal road to development consists of constantly engaging ourselves with better and new technology, policies and ideas. It explained that development is a process that is constant because it brings about change and change itself is constant. Development takes into cognisance cultural, societal and environmental aspects of the society that influences the adoption of better technology, higher standard of living and foster general development. Walt Rostow proposed that stages of economy development of any country require modernisation, and progress. Once the impulses of the traditional economy have been tackled; development surfaces.

### **The Theory of Change**

The theory of Change gained ground in the mid-1990s as a new way of analysing theories that motivate policy, programme and initiatives that are designed to enhance socio-economic and political change in a given society. Noticeable scholars like Huey-Tsych Chen, Peter Riossi, Michael Quinn Patton, Helena Clark, Carol Weiss, among others had great thoughts on how best to apply the theory of change since 1970s and it had since gained popularisation and recognition. The theory of change is a multi-purpose technique that can be applied for the purpose of planning, monitoring, executing, and evaluating policy or programmes that can enhance results. The theory helps to reconnect policy implementation towards its

intended results, output, outcome or impact where there is a distraction in its implementation process. Also, where the policy goal is required to be revisited to meet modern reality, the theory of change can be applicable. The theory is policy, programme and project driven with regards to evaluating their rationale and support its planning, formulation, implementation and assessment with the view of channeling it towards achieving the intended goals or redirect it towards a better goal that best suit the policy situation.

The implications of these theories are that policies are formulated for development which bring about quality change once it is well managed. Where failure and distractions are identified, policy can be redirected towards its original intended results and / or redirected to achieve a better goal that best suit the phenomenon at that time considering a changing world. This also implies that there is need to constantly review and evaluate policies as a means to achieve a desired goal. This is the technique required to bring about change and development in Nigeria. Thus, the Nigeria migration policy needs to be evaluated, monitored and redirected towards national development if truly Nigeria intended it for national development, and even if it was never intended for development, it is imperative that it can be redirected through a holistic review and tailored toward meeting global development goals.

### **OBJECTIVES OF NATIONAL MIGRATION POLICY OF 2015: AN OVERVIEW**

The main policy goal was to establish and strengthen structures that protect human civil and economic rights of Nigerian -home and abroad and rights of aliens residing in Nigeria and to harness positive impact of migration

on national development. The specific objectives include to:

1. establish enabling environment to attract diaspora contribution to national development
2. develop, regulate and update a diaspora database on inflows of remittance
3. create a conducive legislation and policy environment that will facilitates the transfer of knowledge, skills and resources through migration
4. propose strategies for converting brain drain into brain gain and minimise brain waste in Nigeria.

The above enumerated objectives of the Nigeria National Migration Policy 2015 were basically fathomed out to foster national development. The policy development started in 2006 and came to light on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2015. The federal government of Nigeria adopted the policy and provided adequate framework for monitoring and regulating its implementation so as to achieve a robust national development. The government built a synergy with relevant institutions to establish mechanism for smooth implementation of the policy, rendering support – financial and technical; ensure wide dissemination of the policy to all relevant ministries, department, agencies and international bodies (Charles-Edward, Bernard and Abel, 2023 and De Haas, 2020). It is expected that the adoption of migration policy 2015 as a tool to foster national development would not be a hard nut to crack, yet Olayinka and Olayinka (2022) observed that the policy failed in providing atmosphere and conducive environment that could help transfer knowledge, skill and technology for national development. Kanu, et al (2019) added that the policy could not provide accurate and up-to-date database for effective development, citing the policy

document thus, ‘there is general lack of current information on both stock and flow of migrants within and outside the country...the estimates of Nigerians living in developed countries abroad are more available in destination countries than in Nigeria’. Although, Kanu et al (2019) depicted that the policy document itself is rich in idea as to the obligation of the government of Nigeria to her citizens, the documents further revealed that little had been done by the government on areas of poverty, conflicts, insecurity, climate changes, education, trade, among others which constituted factors that hinders effectiveness of the policy on national development.

The implication of the policy document is that despite government efforts to intervene through migration policy to enhance national development; by creating conducive environment for the promotion of job opportunities, protection of human rights of migrants, and to address several challenges bordering on migration. It was observed that the policy document could not exploit relevant environment to achieve its objectives as anticipated due to certain factors that constituted nuisance to national development.

### **IMPACT OF MIGRATION POLICY (2015) ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The effect of migration policy on national development would better be examined with the illustration of the 2015 National Migration Policy of Nigeria. The Nigeria National Migration Policy of 2015 focused largely on enhancing the positive aspect of migration through efficient administration and management of the whole migration process with the optimisation of fostering national development. The policy, made up of two major sectors had the first sector focused on core migration issues that can enhance national development, such

issues include brain drain, diaspora, remittances, urbanisation, irregular migration, border management, whereas the second sector covers several themes that relates to migration and their influences on socio-economic issues like poverty, education, health, trade, and gender. The policy proposes several activities and strategies to be adopted towards achieving the policy’s stipulated goals; so, to obtain a transparent outcome on the country. The International Organisation for Migration (2015) depicted that the responsibility for the implementation of the policy is vested on the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internationally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI). The development impact of migration is influenced by the policy which cut-across several sectors like human rights, trade, disaster risk reduction, climate change, etc, and the policy in turn have impact on migration dynamics (IOM, 2015; Kanu, et al 2019; Olayinka and Olayinka, 2022).

The changing impact of migration on national development occurs in several spheres. Migration can have a range of social, cultural, economic, political and environmental effects (Obani and Odalolu, 2023). The National Migration Policy is a national decision meant to impact the welfare of Nigerians and Nigeria. It serves as the channel to alleviate poverty in Nigeria and increase income from the remittance of Nigerians abroad, access finance for starting a new business, tapping of resources needed to advance welfare of mankind by the international community of the migrant diaspora. The policy allowed higher investment in healthcare and education as well as other welfare schemes (UNCTAD, 2009). De Haas (2006) and Kazeem (2017) noted however, that there are unscrupulous persons who negate this very migration purpose. Kanu, et al (2019) added that the

Nigeria government had perceived the need to harness the potentials of her citizens in diaspora through engagement of their skills, expertise, remittance and foreign investment towards the general development of the country. Thus, government ought to create the enabling environment that would attract diaspora contributions to national development (Ratha and Plaza, 2011).

Again, Sander, Abel and Riosmena (2013) observed that the pathways of converting brain drain to brain gain and minimise brain waste was to empirically obtain database of migrants and identify their potential for proper positioning towards development, because brain drain reduces potential of national development of the country of origin, to actualised brain gain, through creating conducive environment where potentials will thrive. Docquier, Ozden and Peri (2011) depicted that brain drain reduces the wages of lower skilled labour which slow development. Ahmed and Abanimebon (2024) supported this view that departure of highly skilled individuals will affect the low skilled person financially and in productivity which in turn have negative impact on national development.

The national migration policy 2015 influence on economic development as enumerated by Akinyombo and Famiyesi (2023) encompasses all that is done to foster education, welfare, business, health, etc that can close the economic gap, reduce poverty and improve standard of living. Olayinka and Olayinka (2022) added that migration and migration policy create medium for economic advancement of both countries of the migrants. Suffice to say that the effects of migration, migration policy on national development depends on the degree of accuracy of migrants database, skills and potentials identified and this depends on country and their area of interest. Brain drain does not necessarily lead to brain strain if

adequate policies are made and implemented thoroughly. The anticipated impact of national migration policy of 2015 on national development had not been felt in Nigeria due to the adopted implementation strategies (Kanu, et al, 2019; De Haas, 2020 and Billari, 2022) and other challenges. Thus, the impact of migration policy on national development can be attainable once a conducive environment is created, with accurate database to work with using a purposeful implementation strategy that attracts potentials for foreign direct investment and other trade series.

## CHALLENGES OF MIGRATION POLICY IN NIGERIA

The challenges of migration policies and that of the 2015 are similar and can be identifiable to include the followings but not limited to:

1. **Intervening Factors:** There are factors associated with the area of origin and destination of the migrants, which triggers migrants. Conflicts, poverty, insecurity, bad governance, corruption, political instability, violence amongst others constituted considerable challenges to humanity; and so, such factors contribute to hinderance confronting migration and migration policy.
2. **Inadequate policy integration and implementation:** Nigeria policies are not just formulated before implementation; it is essential that they are integrated into the society for assimilation. This fosters good policy implementation. Lack or little policy integration results to poor policy implementation and this constitute a challenge to migration policy and its impacts on economy development. The Nigeria National Migration

Policy of 2015 was observed by Olayinka and Olayinka (2022) not to have been well integrated and so its implementation strategies and procedure were not well understood by Nigerians. The policy document failed due to inadequate integration (Olutayo, Omobowale and Akanle, 2015, Ahmed and Abanimbeon, 2024), and this itself constitute hindrance to effective implementation of migration policy

- 3. Unclear migration policy and requirements:** Migration policy requirements and conditions needs to be made lucid and explicit. Where migration policies are unclear and too ambiguous, it constitutes challenges to development. Czaika and De Haas (2014) depicted that good migration policy foster development. Moreso, Charles-Edward, Bernard and Abel (2023) observed that a national migration policy that present quality opportunities for cross-fertilisation is geared towards national development. In the opinion of De Haas (2020), migration is a tool for development and so, poor policy formulation can frustrate the purpose of migration and it can thwart migrants' ambitions (UN, 2022; Iheke, 2012; and Ratha and Plaza, 2011). The Nigeria migration policy of 2015 seems lucid and direct but not very clear to many people and migrants, hence its implementation became porous and jettisoned.
- 4. Poor database:** Nigeria as a country is stills faced with the challenge of having a comprehensive database for her citizens, most data are inaccurate and inadequate. Some are too

complex and cumbersome to understand. This deters quality communication as well constitute problems to migration policy. Data of migrants are unavailable and undeterminable hence; it is cumbersome for bond flow remittance to occur (Akinyombo and Famiyesi. 2023).

- 5. Policy Incoherence:** The Nigeria National Migration policy 2015 just like other areas of migration policies are quite inconsistent and incoherence and this contribute to remittance of diaspora issues. Thus, Obano and Odalonu (2023) observed that policy incoherence and inconsistent affect development of a country and if not well managed, can result to a dare complicated state of affairs. Lack of bilateral agreement with any country to foster Nigeria Migration welfare is evidence of poor oversight and recourse to affect some other policy that could surface in the future.

### FACTORS THAT PROPEL THE CHANGING IMPACT OF MIGRATION POLICY FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The understated are some of the proposed tools with which migration policy can be changed to impact meaningfully on national development.

- 1. Government – Society Partnership:** Migration policy cannot solely foster national development because migration is a multi-dimensional reality which required the cooperation, support and partnership of both government and entire society. The IOM (2022) suggested that for migration policy to improves the society at large, there ought to be

partnership, transfer of skill, knowledge and financial resources. This is so, because the relationship between migration and development is much more complex, political, social and economic in reality. Obani and Odalonu (2023) and Ahmed and Abanimebon (2024) added that if migration is poorly governed or managed, it can negatively impact on development and to deduce development from migration. Akinyomba and Famiyesi (2023) supported this view that policies related to migration must be strategically attended to by both government and the whole society. Thus, adequate orientation, support and implementation of migration policy would be channel for national development.

2. **Engage, Empower and Enable Migrants as Development Actors:**

To be able to tailored migration policy towards national development in contemporary age, it is pivotal that migrants are assigned with the responsibility of development in the state. In fact, when migrants are engaged, empowered and enabled as the agents of development through policy, it will foster development because their activities, actions and inactions would be adequately considered as sources of development. Kanu, et al (2019) added that once migrants are empowered through the laws of the land, their remittance plays vital role towards development amicably. Thus, Akinyombo and Famiyesi (2023) supported this view that unless the laws of the land engaged and empowered migrants to reflect on their collective responsibilities to

their home society and abroad, no meaningful contribution towards development would be achieved. IOM (2015, 2022) and De Haas (2020) adduced that the extend migrants can contribute to development is directly linked to their capability to integrate their services into their communities of origin.

3. **Policy Integration and Coherence:**

The Nigeria governments at all level is ready to deal with the effects of migration at every level where migration policies are mainly felt. For migration policy to foster changing impact towards national development, there is need to foster coherence across every institution in Nigeria, issues surrounding integration, reintegration, education, legal, legal protection, local infrastructure, policy order, economic development, health, etc are best placed to ensured development effects.

4. **Strategic Implementation and Management:**

For migration policy to foster national development, there should be a unique strategic method for the implementation, monitoring and management of such migration policy. The World Development Report (2023) suggested that strategic implementation and management opportunities should be adopted towards migration policy as a means to transform them into development. Migration is a powerful force for prosperity and development once it is adequately and properly managed, it provides benefits for humanity – in diaspora or origin societies. Akinyomba and Famiyesi (2023) added that the goal of policy makers should be to strengthen and match

migration skills, knowledge and potentials which will be demanded in both societies. Countries of origin should make migration policy explicit part of development, lower remittance cost, tariff, facilitate knowledge transfer from their diaspora, build skills that are of high demand globally. To foster good migration policy implementation strategy, international cooperation is essential as a driving force for development.

**5. Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment:** Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) allows a company, individual, or an entity to take over control and ownership of company in another country. Nigeria migration policy should promote foreign companies or individuals with knowledge, skills and technology to invest in Nigeria. This will improve and increase development. An investor should be encouraged to purchase, merge or set up new ventures in Nigeria and the migration policy should be liberal enough to accommodate FDI. Czaika and De Haas (2014) opined that FDI requires conducive environment policies. FDI stimulate economic development and create more conducive environment for companies, investors and local communities (De Haas, 2020).

## CONCLUSION

It is a known fact that humans must constantly move from place to place in search of quality lifestyles and greener pasture. Policies formulated to regulate human movement could be utilised as tools for economic, social and environmental development if well managed. The Nigeria National Migration Policy of 2015 was observed to be a lofty policy document with good ideas for development, but its

implementation strategies failed to actualised the anticipated goals for both migrants, host and foreign countries. It was also observed that the migration policy did not pursue development due to hunger, poverty, insecurity, bad governance, among others that has persistently confronted Nigerians. These factors were observed to had frustrated government efforts for fostering national development through migration policy. However, there are prospects for migration policy geared towards national development through adoption of the changing impact of migration policy on national development. Hence, the paper concluded that the incoherence and ambiguity of the policy contributed to its implementation failure coupled with poor database and monitoring techniques. Thus, government should refocus migration polices towards national development by adopting global standards that brings about changing impact on development.

## RECOMMENDATION

1. Nigeria National Migration Policies should be reviewed with the aim of leveraging it to encourage migrants and FDI
2. Migration policies and economy policies in Nigeria should be coherence and integrated towards national development
3. Migrants should be engaged, empowered and enabled as development actors through policy
4. The Nigeria government should partner with the Nigeria society for ease understanding, strategic effective and implementation purposes and adopt technology globalisation techniques.

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