POLITICS OF PUBLIC POLICYMAKING ENVIRONMENT IN NIGERIA'S FOURTH REPUBLIC: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

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ABSTRACT

Politics cannot be separated from policymaking environment globally. This is because there is politics in whatever government does in carrying out its functions. The objective of this paper is to examine the politics involved in public policymaking environment in Nigeria with reference to policy challenges and prospects. Institutional theory of policy as an institutional activity, popularized by Thomas Dye, is adopted as the framework of analysis. The paper employed library research techniques in such a way that information sourced from books, journals and constitution are employed as its documentary sources of data collection. Thematic analysis is adopted in the paper and concludes that the processes involved in public policymaking in Nigeria are fundamentally the same in scope and content with public policymaking in most developed and developing countries. However, the salient difference is the environment in which the policy takes place as well as its consequences on the economy and citizenry. Finally, the paper recommends policy knowledge through attending seminars, workshop and courses and training among all public officials with the requisite authority to make, modify, or terminate policy should be encouraged by adequate funding from the government.

Keywords: Politics; Public; Public Policy; Policymaking; Environment; Policy Knowledge.

INTRODUCTION

Politics cannot be separated from policymaking environment globally. This is because there is politics in whatever government does in carrying out it functions, including law making, law implementation and law interpretation and adjudication. This is expatiated by O'Connor and Goldberg (1992) who identify that 'politics is the word used to describe everything about governments. The making of laws is politics. How the laws are carried out is politics. How lawmakers are selected is politics. The word politics covers many things. It covers the everyday routines. 'It covers the great decisions in government' (p.81). In every political system, the people look upon government to make things better. Therefore, public policy is the aspect of politics concerned with this task. The citizens' confidence in government is measured by responses of public policy to the general will. Essentially, public policy is problem solving and its performance is weighted on the basis of the problem solved. Hence, public policy is key to the function of government and how decisions are ultimately made. Consequently, it is worthy of note that every experience in people's life from cradle to grave is shaped by public policy. There are policies that create or shape the organizations for which we work, the homes in which we live, the schools where we study, and the hospitals where we are born as well as the countries, states or local governments we visited.

In Nigeria for example, since its return to democratic rule in 1999, many developmental policies and plans have been formulated and implemented. These developmental policies and plans with their target plans are persistently faced with many challenges. The policies are presented in the table below:

S/No.	Development Plans	Period	Objectives/Target of Plans
1.	Vision 2010	1996-2010	To transform the country and place it on the route to becoming a developed nation by the year 2010
2.	Vision 2015	2010-2015	Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) created by the UN help achieve 8 MDG goals by the year 2015: Eradicating Extreme Poverty and Hunger; Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women; Reduce Child Mortality; Improve Maternal Health; Compact HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases; Ensure Environmental Sustainability and Develop a global partnership for development. Nigeria embraced the vision and developed
3.	Vision 20:2020	2009-2018	To make Nigeria among the top 20 economies in terms of GDP size by 2020
4.	7 Point Agenda	2007-2010	Wealthy creation, development of physical infrastructures (power, energy and transportation), human capital development (education and health), security, law and order, land tenure changes and ownership, regional

			development (Niger Delta), and food security.
4.	Transformation Agenda	2011-2015	Medium term strategy to speed up the realization of Vision 20:2020 through: creating jobs to resolve unemployment and reduce poverty; laying foundation for robust and inclusive economic growth; improving the wellbeing of Nigerians regardless of their circumstance and location.
5.	Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP)	2015-2021 Date	Medium term strategy to resolve growth through diversification of the economy; increase infrastructural spending (higher spending on road, rail and power projects) to drive growth.

Source: Extracted from Fage (2021) and compiled by the Author

Generally, public policies are ubiquitous because they confer advantages and disadvantages, cause pleasure, irritation, and pain and collectively have important consequences for the wellbeing and happiness of the people in the society. Examples of public policies in Nigeria include indigenization policy, environmental policy, energy policy, social welfare policy, criminal justice policy, agricultural policy, housing policy, information policies, national policy on education, employment policy with particular reference to Federal Character, etc.

The paper assumed that politics cannot be separated from policymaking. Yet environmental factors that affect the success or failure of policymaking vary across countries. Therefore, the need to examine the politics involved in policymaking in Nigeria, with particular reference to policy challenges and prospects prompted this paper.

The following questions form the basis of this paper:

a)   What were the challenges of policymaking environment in Nigeria from 1999 – 2021?

b)   What is to be done to improve policymaking process in Nigeria?

METHODS

The paper employed a library research technique aimed to source information from books, journals, internet, and government publications like constitution. This method is used to gain insight into politics of policymaking environment in Nigeria's fourth republic vis-à-vis challenges and prospects. The paper is divided into five parts. Part one introduces the paper. Concepts clarifications and theoretical framework of analysis is treated in part two. In part three, the factors that influence policymaking environment in Nigeria are discussed. Part four examines the challenges of policymaking in Nigeria.

Concepts Clarifications and Theoretical Framework of Analysis

Public: The concept of public comprises a sphere of human activity which is regarded as requiring government ownership, intervention and/or common action. Therefore, people frequently use terms such as public interest; public opinion, public sector; public health; public school; public roads; etc. to qualify what owns by the government. Simply put, whatever is owned by the government is called public (Sapru, 2006).

Policy: Policy literally is used in the same way as decision or decision making. But technically, policy is much broader than a decision. In short, policy is a decision plus all the actions that accompany all decision-making. Hence, policy is a plan of action agreed to by a group of people with the power to carry it out and enforce it. In the same vein, Hogwood and Gunn (1984 cited in Kay 2006, p.7) ascribed a number of the common uses of the word 'policy'. Thus, policy is seen as a label for a field of activity (for example, foreign policy); as an expression of general purpose or the intended path towards a desired state of affairs; and as a specific proposal. Similarly, it is used to denote a decision of government or a formal authorization (example, legislation). Moreover, it is also invoked when describing a program of activity, or what governments actually deliver as opposed to what it is expected or authorized through legislation. Policy is also regarded as outcomes or what is actually achieved. It is indeed considered as a theory or model. For example is the notion that if we do X then Y will follow (Hogwood and Gunn, 1984). Fundamentally, policy is a law, regulation, procedure, administrative action, incentive or voluntary practice of governments and other institutions.

Public Policy: Scholars come up with different definitions, meanings and conceptions of public policy as thus: Dye (2002) sees public policy as whatever governments choose to do or not do. While Cochrant *et al* (1999) conceive the term 'public policy' to always refer to the actions of government and the intentions that determine those actions. However, according to Peters (1999), public policy is the sum of government activities, whether activity directly or through agents as it has an influence on the life of citizens. Anderson and Sharkansky (cited in Abdulsami 1987, p.3) defined policy more specifically as government decisions and action programme aimed at achieving:

a.　　The provision of public services (e.g. education, health, water supply, electricity, etc.);

b.　　The regulation of personal and corporate activities (e.g. by the police and other security forces, sanitary inspectors, etc.);

c.　　Celebration of symbolic events (e.g. Independence Day, New Year, Democracy Day, Workers Day, etc.); and Actions (e.g. changing of electoral rules, combating corruption, instituting political and administrative reforms, etc.).

Sambo (1999) conceptualized public policy as the policy developed or formulated by governmental bodies or officials for the interest all the people. Hence, Public policy is about decisions or sets of decisions aimed at addressing the needs and aspirations of the people. Consequently, it is the government bodies or officials who have the authority in any political system to make policies. Example of these bodies includes executives, legislators, judges, administrators, councilors or monarchies, etc. Last but not the least, Howlett and Ramesh (2020, p.3) offered that "public policy at its most simple a choice made by a government to undertake some course of action In the light of the above definitions of public policy". We can deduce that public policy possesses some attributes that can distinguish it from any other policy. To that end, Birkland (2011, p.9) identifies some important key attributes of public policy as:

1.　　It is made in response to some sort of problem that requires attention.

2.　　It is made on the 'public's' behalf.

3.　　It is a goal or problem oriented, that is, it is geared toward solving a problem.

4.　　It is ultimately made by the governments, irrespective of where the ideas were initiated.

5.　　It is interpreted and implemented by public and private actors who have different interpretations of problems, solutions and their own motivations; and,

6.　　Public Policy is what the government chooses to do or not to do.

Public Policymaking Process

Policymaking is a process and influence about how policy is made, put in place, carried out, and finally, evaluated. Ngu (2006) substantiates that the policymaking process is influenced by certain factors including the types of societies, the systems of government and administration, ecology, socio-economic and other subsystems within any given polity.

Additionally, the policymaking process is viewed by many political scientists and public administrators alike as an ongoing process, a functional activity and a sequence of many stages. O' Connor and Sabato (2004) view the policy making process as an arrangement of seven stages:

1. **Problem Recognition and Definition**

A problem that disturbs or distresses people gives rise to demand for relief, often through governmental action. Public officials and interest groups need to clarify identity the problems the society is faced with, because a single problem or event may be subject to different interpretation e.g. banditry, Boko Haram insurgency, corruption, inflation, the rising cost of food and medicated care, indiscipline, unemployment, prostitution, financial fraud, etc. Once a problem is recognized and defined, it must be brought to the attention of public officials and it must secure a place on the policy agenda to which policy makers are expected to address.

2. **Agenda Setting**

The identified, recognized and defined set of problems to which policymakers are expected to act upon are placed on a government's agenda. If successful, action by the president, members of congress, interest groups can put an issue on the national policy agenda.

3. **Policy Formation**

This is the stage in which the public policymakers try to evolve various alternative solutions to the given identified and defined problems. In other words, the stage consists of the formulation of alternatives for dealing with the problem e.g. the legislative, executive agencies and interest groups develop proposed courses of actions to deal with a problem. This can be in the form of suggestion ways of combating corruption, inflation, financial fraud, unemployment, etc.

4. **Policy Adoption**

The stage involves the formal enactment or approval of an alternative policy (laws, regulations or policies adopted). In other words, the stage deals with the approval of a policy proposed by the people with the requisite authority to do so, especially the legislators.

5. **Budgeting**

This is the stage whereby the financial resources are provided to carry out the approved alternative, which can now truly be called a policy. This is because government spending is a common indicator of governmental functions and priorities in policymaking.

6. **Policy implementation**

Literally, implementation is considered as an act of administration because it deals mainly with the execution of public policy. This is not always the case for one thing – implementation involves interaction between goal setting and actions geared

toward achieving the goals. This stage involves the actual administration or application of the policy to its targets (i.e. policies are come into force). Simply put, it is the stage where policy goals are translated into action. This clarification explains why Egonmwam (1991) described policy implementation as the stage "where you grapple with reality". He further substantiated that the implementation stage operates under certain assumptions. They are:

1. That the implementation agencies will devotedly implement policy given to them. If they do otherwise, the original goal will not be met.

2. That a policy handed down could be implemented. That is, resources (knowledge, money, men and materials) are available to implement a given policy.

3. That a policy is focused on the target group, that is, those to be affected by the policy.

4. And there should exist an institutional arrangement for implementing a programme or policy.

7. Policy Evaluation

In the literal sense, evaluation stage is the stage where policy is assessed, and most people consider it to be the last stage of policy making process. This is to say, people consider it when all other stages in the policy making process have been completed. However, evaluation is a functional activity which can take place at any stage of policy making process e.g., in building a school with ten (10) classes as a result of evaluation due to certain circumstances that may likely happen, the class will be reduced to five (5) because of the economic predicament or other reasons. Furthermore, evaluation can be defined as a process of assessment or appraisal of the policy including its contents implementation and effects. Thus, a policy is usually evaluated either by the

policymakers themselves or by the citizens or experts outside can evaluate the achievements and problems of the policy and assess which one weight the other after its implementation e.g. devaluation of naira and its consequence on Nigeria and its citizens.

In evaluation of policy, emphasis is usually put on two (2) things:

a. **Efficiency:** this deals with the assessment of the relationship between input and output.

b. **Effectiveness:** this involves the assessment of the extent to which the policy realizes its objectives. In doing this, the evaluator usually employs cost benefit analysis or cost effectiveness analysis.

Generally, policy is evaluated on order to determine the policy's actual accomplishments, consequences, or shortcomings. Evaluations may restart the policy process by identifying a new problem and touching off an attempt to modify or terminate the policy.

In conclusion, Howlett and Ramesh (2020) conceive of a similar policy cycle above but with five stages or step:

1. Agenda setting (Problem recognition):

2. Policy Formulation (Proposal of a Solution);

3. Decision making (choice of a solution);

4. Policy implementation (Putting the Solution with effect); and

5. Policy evaluation (Monitoring results).

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK OF ANALYSIS

The paper adopted institutional theory of public policy in the discussion of politics of public policymaking environment in Nigeria. Early proponents of the theory include Aristotle (384 BCE – 322 BC), Max Weber (1864-1920), Thomas Hobbes (1588- 1679), John Bodin (1530-1596), John Locke (1632-1704), Nicolas Machiavelli (1469-1527), Thomas Dye (1937-date), etc. The institutional theory in public policy was popularized by Thomas Dye by viewing public policy as institutional output (Dye 2013, p. 17). The theory seeks to: (1) explain government as institutional activity; (2) make or mar the success of policymaking process; and (3) emphasize the formal of government and its operations.

In the light of the above assumptions, Dye (2013) avers that a policy does not become a public policy until it is adopted, implemented, and enforced by some government institution such as, the legislatures, executives, courts, and bureaucracy. Hence, these governmental institutions give public policy three unique attributes of having legal backing and legitimacy in commanding loyalty and obedience from the citizens; universality for compliance are extended to all people in a society; and enforced by the security agencies and its violators are punished based on the gravity of its violation. The sanctions for violation of public policies may be fine, imprisonment, and even sentence to death.

The theory is relevant to the paper because it conveys how policy takes place between and among government institutions. It also helps to guide the study of public policy; facilitate communication in the process of policymaking among the institutions of government, and suggest possible explanation for policy action. More importantly, the theory is relevant as it explains the roles played by the policy actors' particularly state actor vis-à-vis their roles in policymaking process as well as their influence in addressing problems bedeviling the country.

Factors that influence Policymaking Environment in Nigeria

According to most policy analysts, the range of environmental factors that influence public policy can be divided into two:

a)　　Domestic/Intra Societal factors or condition

b)　　External societal factor or condition

Domestic Policy Environment

This can be referred to the internal conditions within which the public policymakers and policymaking system operate. In other words, it refers to the factors or events arising from within the society through which the government can make a policy. They include:

a) The Structural Environment

This involves rules that dictate how government operates its business. For example, the federal system of government adopted in Nigeria provides room by which policies can be categorized into three: Policies that are local in nature, state in nature as well as federal in nature. Separation of powers and checks and balances also dictate the operation of government on the governmental powers and functions as constitutionally spelt-out in the 1999 Constitution. Therefore, any conflict that may likely occur over jurisdictional exercise of power can be taken to court for judicial interpretation and settlement.

b) The Social Environment

The social aspect of the policy environment involves the nature and composition of the population and its

social structure. Therefore, government is expected to get data on the composition of the population by considering the age distribution, gender, employment status and other attributes to make policy that could address problems. This is also concerned with the impact of the social demographic characteristics of the country in its policy output. This includes things like population, sex, density, social division and so on. For example, in most developing countries, there have been a lot of socio-demographic problems originating from economic growth with development, high population density which leads to high level of crimes, inadequate provision of social services, and poor environmental sanitation.

c) The Economic Environment

The economic environment includes the growth of the economy, the distribution and/or allocation of scarce resources, the size and composition of industrial sector, the inflation rate and the cost of labour and raw materials. Similarly, the economic factor influences the way government produces goods and services as well as determine how political system is organized and in turn allocates resources to the general populace. Economic influence on public policy can be evaluated based on taking into consideration the following factors:

Wealth of Nation: This is measured in terms of indicators like Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Gross National Product (GNP), Per Capital Income, level of investment and so on. There is a kind of positive correlation between the wealth of nation and its public policy. For example, in developing countries where there is economic stagnation with less or no investment and dependency on imported goods, governments are mostly concerned with the issue of poverty management. As a result, their policies are geared towards producing basic necessities like water, roads, hospital, etc., and bridging the gap

between the haves and haves-not (rich and poor). Hence, the main concerns of public policies in developing countries are distributive and re-distributive, unlike, in developed countries where public policies are regulated and constituent.

The Economic Structure: This deals with the control and ownership of the means of production in the given country. In other words, the issue of private versus public ownership of the means of production in ideological terms is translated as capitalism versus socialism and perhaps the third is neither here nor there (i.e. the mixed economy system). The general belief is that a state economic structure determines its public policy. For example in a capitalist system, the belief is that the general well-being and freedom of the individuals are test protected if there is little investment of government in individual groups or institutional activities. On the other hand, in socialist system, there is the belief that to active economic development is prosperity the political system must play the reactive roles in the society especially in the area of regulatory and distributive policies. However, in the countries practicing socialism, economic policies are made for the ownership and control of the means of production concurrently by both the public and private institutions.

Technology: This refers to the application of sciences to the production of goods and services in the economic system. This also has direct and indirect influence in the political system. For example, technology is not only related to other economic factors discussed above, it also shapes political decision as well as the political need of the society. That, the information age has necessitated developing countries to attached priority in their policy agenda doing things online. Examples are e-learning, e-banking, e-business, etc.

d) Political Environment

This involves the way in which policymakers and other participants in politics assess their political and policy options. This happens by looking at public opinion to most important problems like civil right violation, health, crime, etc. Public opinion plays a significant role through which government collect information about public outcry and preferences.

Political policy environment can be grouped into two categories, viz:

Political Culture: This is defined as the set of cognitive and evaluative structures through which people view and interpret the behaviour of their government. In other words, it is the shared beliefs, values, and attitude of the people concerning what government should be and how relationship should be established between the government and people.

Culture is of different forms: participant, subjective and parochial. The point is that political culture is really articulated. All the same, it establishes the boundaries of the activities of government as either good or bad. This is because it provides the citizen with an image of what a good or bad government.

Furthermore, culture exercises an important influence on policies. For example, Gabriel Almond said that, in a participant culture, public opinion influences government action. As result, the government is pushed into welfare programme. On the other hand, in developing countries where the culture is predominantly parochial or subjective, the people tend to make a view of government and public officials dictatorial even under civilian dispensation. Hence, they resort to extra measures in order to get things done, including lobbying, favouritism, corruption, etc.

The regime type: This refers to a dictatorial or constitutional setting through which decision-making occur. In other words, it is concerned with the taking of rule either by constitutional means or by decrees which define the fundamental organizational structure and process of the government. They tend to determine the nature, content and direction of public policy. Similarly, the group that occupy important decision-making role based on the regime type either dictatorial, democratic, and or monarchical such as military based of State, President, King/Queen, Prime Minister, Governor, Chairman, etc. The idea is that, since public policies are formulated and implemented by government officials, the personal quality of the policymakers and the means they occupy the position of making policy has impact on their policy styles. The argument is that regime type tends to inherence the process of decision-making.

Regimes are usually divided into three types:

i. There is a regime known as "democracy" in which there are popular and open participatory on the political process. That, people are allow constitutionally to have say on the policy to be formulated and complemented on their behalf as well as make their representatives accountable to their actions or inactions.

ii. There is what is known as "innovating" mobilizational autocracy. This refers to a type of government role by a person or few people who seek to change the existing social order, popular values, traditional institutions as well as the distribution and allocation of resources in the society. Example of states and perhaps some military governments – people like late Murtala Ramat Mohammed, General Muhammad Buhari's military administration, late Ghaddafi of Libya, late Saddan Hussein of Iraq, etc.

iii. The tradition autocracy – This refers to the rule by one or few people but which seeks to continue with the existence of social order. They usually de-emphasize popular participation. Monarchical forms of government such as that of Kings in all Arab Countries and traditional rulers are good examples of traditional autocracy.

External Policy Environment

This refers to the factors and causes outside the jurisdictional area of the public authorities that have direct and indirect impact on the setting up of domestic agenda policies as well as the ability of the policymakers to implement selected policy alternatives. One basic reality of contemporary international system is that countries are now interdependent in many areas such as economic, cultural, social, political and even physical environment structures, etc. As of this interdependence therefore countries are greatly influenced by suggestion, demand and other factors which originate from events and actors based outside their domestic society.

In addition, the interdependence has the effect of blurring the line between domestic and foreign policy. Example, falling of oil price in international market will have a negative impact to Nigeria both domestically and internationally since the country depends solely on oil as its primarily source of revenue. Similarly, some external forces and structure tend to have foreign capacity to influence domestic policies. Examples are health challenges (COVID 19), war, global economic recession, international organization, international economic conditions which have led African countries not only to international debt (borrowing) but also to the adoption of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank designed policies and programmes with aim of economic reform through improving domestic economic growth. Thus, Nigeria accepted Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) in 1986 with its conditions like currency devaluation, subsidy removal, de-regulation, etc.

Challenges of Policymaking in Nigeria

Inadequate Policy Knowledge: Whenever those in a position to make policy are incapacitated either in knowledge or financial backing, the policy is bound to fail. This is attributable to the fact that most developing countries are characterized by acute shortage of technical skills, material and financial resources. All these attributes tend to constraint government ability to implement policies effectively and efficiently. Thus, policymaking process tend to become dead even before implementation. This is a serious challenge bedeviling Nigeria and many developing countries.

Adoption of policies targeted at servicing foreign loans: Policymaking must take into cognizance the environmental conditions of the country upon which the policy is meant to succeed. This is to say that policies fail because they have been the practice to copy models and programmes from other countries without really taking into consideration the fact that such countries are not the same as Nigeria.

Paucity of Demographic Data: Policy relies basically on data. Thus, the data on which policies are based make or mar the policy. Whenever the data is not reliable, the policy would also be unreliable. Most often than not, this challenge of insufficient and unreliable data, seen to be general among developing countries, inhibit the policymaking process in these countries. Anthony and Obiajulu (2017) affirms that accurate data is a very scarce commodity in Nigeria due to challenges arising from the inadequacies of the Federal Office of statistics, the unwillingness of Nigerians to reveal

information, and the outright manipulation of data for pecuniary or other gains.

Poor Leadership and Followership: Poor leadership and followership are one of major stumbling blocks for policy success in Nigeria. This is because leaders are often selfish in pursuing and defending their selfish interest while the followers glorify them. One of the beauties of democratic governance is that the electorate hold their leaders accountable to their actions. But reverse is the case in most developing countries. Indeed, followers are to blame for not discharging their civic responsibility as and when due (i.e. voting out bad leaders from office during election).

Corruption: Systemic corruption is a situation in which corruption has been institutionalized and raised to the level of a structural parameter. This has a lot of components such as forgery, inflation of contracts, bribery and even nepotism and favouritism which thwart the policymaking process. In fact, corruption has become part of the culture of the Nigerian society. This needs to be urgently addressed.

Dialoke, Finian and Ifeyinwa (2017, p.25) remarked that public office holders make policies based on their selfish interest and sometimes only to attract public attention. Most policy goals in Nigeria are based on the personal rewards and interests of the political leaders and their godfathers with the result that a policy is judged more on its political merits than with the real developmental gain.

Failure to address enabling environmental factors for the policy to succeed: There are many environment factors that serve as challenges for policy to succeed in Nigeria. Such as insecurity, epileptic supply of electricity, bad roads, insurgency, banditry, and the failure of government to build confidence and trust among Nigerians. These challenges need

to be addressed for policies to succeed in the country and even serve as indicator to attract foreigners to engage in business activities.

Institutional Weakness: Poor articulation of policies and objectives due partly institutional disharmony over lack of harmonious working relationships among the policy actors render the policy to fail. Therefore, where no measure is taken to punish those involved for the policy failure, it makes for its continuity and actors continue to go with impunity. This is another challenge to policymaking in Nigeria and many developing countries.

Structural Challenges: This involves lack of proper definition of responsibilities and coordination, etc. This results in organization deficiencies and conflict over jurisdiction, for example, Vehicle Inspection Officers (V.I.O) and Federal Road Safety Corps of Nigeria (FRSCN), Civil Defence and Nigeria Police, Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) and Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), etc.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Public policy is central to the function of government and how decisions are ultimately formulated, implemented and evaluated. Therefore, policy needs resources (both human and financial) and action to be differentiated from political rhetoric. However, the paper in its findings revealed that the processes involved in public policymaking in Nigeria are fundamentally the same in scope and content with public policymaking in most developed and developing countries. The salient difference is the environment in which the policy takes place as well as its consequences on the economy and citizenry.

The paper also established that government institutions give policy and

policymaking process unique attributes when compared to private policy. Indeed, it is in the context of public policy that people recognize that government has the right and duty (legitimacy) to make binding decisions of coercion (compulsion) which enables it to make laws with penalties, including death sentence. Finally, the paper established that policymaking process was influenced by certain factors such as environment, types of societies, systems of government and administration adopted, etc. for it to either succeed or fail. Hence, politics cannot be divorced from policymaking.

The paper recommends the following:

1. Government should address the challenges that inhibit policies to succeed in Nigeria, such as provision of adequate social amenities, security and building confidence and trust among Nigerians.

2. Policymakers and other stakeholders including professionals from NGOs should endeavour to evaluate policies implemented when due and suggest way forward to the government either for continuity, modification or termination of policies and programmes.

3. That policy knowledge through attending seminars, workshop, courses, training, and retraining among all public officials with the requisite authority to make, modify, or terminate policy should be encouraged and adequately funded by the government.

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