ASSESSMENT OF THE MUHAMMADU BUHARI ADMINISTRATION POLICY OF FEEDING PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS PUPILS IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT
On 11th April 2022, the idea for the school feeding programme was born because Nigeria has high malnutrition and schools continue to struggle with attracting students. This study examines this context and is based on two research questions and two objectives aimed at spotting hurdles in the national home-grown school feeding programme in Nigeria and proposing actions to strengthen it and other policy actions in the country. The analysis drew from systems theory and the study gathered secondary and primary data mainly from books, articles and online sources. In the study, respondents were selected using survey research design and purposive sampling. Out of 300 research questionnaires distributed in the study, 286 were returned and used for analysis in the three Community Primary Schools. Information was shown as a table and analyzed using percentages. Amongst the findings, it is concluded that poor access to the programme, less money allocated and costly food items are all problems faced by the programme. Accordingly, the study suggests, along with other steps, managing food vendors well, raising food standards and quality and organized supplies can lead the programme to achieve good results.

Introduction

The provision of fundamental social services to its residents is one of the fundamental responsibilities of a state which explains its significance and existence. Providing the populace with basic welfare services highlights the essential nature of statehood. Section 14 (2b) of the Federal Republic of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution encapsulates the aforementioned assertion. It reads as follows: "The people's safety and well-being will be the main goal of government." The government's provision of social services is always a direct result of the application of policies. It follows that the latter is essential to the former's realization.

Over the years, the vast majority of public opinion contributors have persisted in attributing Nigeria's slow progress toward achieving its national developmental goals on the inadequate and unyielding execution of state policies and programs. In Nigeria, public policy implementation frequently proves to be the scourge of many well-thought-out plans. According to Lawson (2019), Nigeria has been stuck in the abyss of inadequate leadership and

bad governance due to a purposeful tendency on the part of policymakers and implementers to pay less attention to the successful execution of policies.

Over time, the Nigerian ruling class has utilized the concept of celebrating and promoting the creation of a public policy, even before it has been successfully implemented, as a ruse to trick the populace. The current federal government of Nigeria launched the national homegrown school feeding program as one social investment measure to help lower the high percentage of out-of-school children in the nation. Lawal et al. claim that the National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (NHGSFP) is published in the European Journal of Humanities and Educational Advancements (EJHEA), (2021), is part of the N500 billion funded social investment programme designed by the Federal Government to tackle poverty, improve the health and education of children and other vulnerable groups. The programme aims to feed over 24 million school children, which will make it the largest school feeding programme of its kind in Africa. Nigeria has one of the highest burdens of childhood malnutrition.

In fact, according to a survey by Lawal et al. (2021) that appeared in the Guardian newspaper, nutritional issues impact over 42% of Nigerian schoolchildren and account for 49% of primary school-age absences. Furthermore, according to the research, the United Nations organization UNICEF estimates that every year, 2.5 million Nigerian children under the age of five suffer from severe malnutrition, and half a million of them pass away as a result. Thus, President Muhammadu Buhari introduced the NHGSFP in June 2016 as part of his 2015 campaign pledges.

The goal is to provide one complimentary lunch every day to students. Based on a priori reasoning, it is clear that the national school feeding policy is intended to both boost student enrollment and lower the malnutrition index that is currently observed in Nigeria. Should this be the goal of the program's creators, how has the program performed since its inception? However, in the majority of cases, Nigerian public policy makers may have a brilliant, sincere, direct, and beneficial policy plan, but they may not be aware of the political and systemic complexities that surround its implementation, according to Obi et al. (2008).

According to Egonmwan (2009, p. 28), this is a classic situation in Nigeria, where the goals of policymakers are frequently undermined by a combination of strong political and administrative forces, as well as the high level of corruption. The resulting shortcomings, complexity, and collapse that have characterized major public policy implementation approaches in developing countries, particularly Nigeria, have contributed to a shift in focus toward the significance of clearly defining the administration of policy implementation, giving adequate attention to factors like political variables and organizational capacity to carry out and drive development projects.

Statement of the Problem

Nigerian policy implementation initiatives are notoriously riddled with ineptitude and administrative blunders. The most notable problems in this situation are those that mostly stem from a lack of political will and dedication to start an exhaustive plan aimed at achieving a tangible goal. According to Okunola (2021), around 10.5 million Nigerian children do not attend school, even though elementary education is legally free and required. This suggests that Nigeria is home to one in five of the world's out-of-school youngsters.

The Nigerian government must therefore implement a number of measures to boost primary school enrollment and completion rates. Unquestionably, school feeding programs are a significant social safety net that have been implemented in numerous nations worldwide to enhance students' performance, attendance, and concentration in class. The Home-Grown School Feeding program, or HGSFP, was introduced by the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2016 at public primary schools throughout 22 states in an effort to lower the number of out-of-school children in the nation. The Federal Government-led N70 (0.17 USD) per day school feeding programme aims to increase enrolment rates, improve the nutritional and health status of primary school children, boost the income of farmers and provide empowerment opportunities for women (Okunola, 2021). However, inadequate funding and late payment of food vendors pose a great challenge to sustainability of the programme.

Furthermore, Lawson (2019, p. 5) laments the disastrous results of government employees' or political office holders' lack of political will to carry out programs. The only factors

contributing to Nigeria's precarious economic position are the political office holders' haphazard commitment and lack of political will to enact public policies that are essential to the nation's basic developmental goals. The extent to which political office holders' lack of political will has permeated practically every level of administrative systems in Nigeria's public sphere is evident from the widespread abandonment of visible government projects and programs across the country (Lawson, 2019).

Furthermore, good policy implementation is negatively impacted by the problems of nepotism and political/bureaucratic corruption. As a result, service delivery is encountering severe obstacles. The tenets of public service, such as honesty, integrity, loyalty, probity, accountability, transparency, impartiality, discipline, commitment, diligence, expertise, and competence, have been violated by public officials and eroded by political office holders, according to Adamu and Rasheed (2016, p. 3). This has allowed the few in positions of power and authority to enrich themselves at the expense of the majority of citizens who live in poverty, squalor, insecurity, and violence.It is against this background that this study takes a critical assessment of the national home-grown school feeding programme of the Muhammadu Buhari- led administration.

Research Questions

Upon the issues raised above, our study presents the following research questions:

i. What are the possible challenges militating against the successful implementation of the national home-grown school feeding programme in Nigeria?

ii. What are the strategies that can be adopted to improve the national home-grown school feeding programmes and other policy initiatives in Nigeria?

Objective of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to analyze how well the national home-grown school feeding programme performed under the Muhammadu Buhari administration and the problems it met. The European Journal of Humanities and Educational Advancements (EJHEA)

Scope of the Study

This study covers the years 2016 through 2021. The study looks at the home-grown school feeding programme introduced by the Muhammadu Buhari administration. The study looks only at the areas of Kaduna, Ibadan and Delta within Nigeria.

Conceptual Review

There is no broad meaning for public policy. The reason is that scholars have varied opinions about the concept over the years. Even though different researchers have given different views, there is a common core at the heart. Policy actions or non-actions by the government are what we call public policy and implementing those policies comes from policy formation. According to Basu (2004), a public policy relates to creating actions, making rules, designing laws and choosing where funds are spent for known social problems. Public policy deals with the actions and viewpoints taken up by government at various levels.

It describes the regulations the government makes to guide an area of society at any given moment. According to Presthus, shared in Obi et al. (2008), public policy is a planned approach, taken from among alternatives based on certain circumstances, to influence current and future actions. At any moment, when government has to make a public decision, it needs to pick the best answer for the general public by comparing different policy options. Ikelegbe (1996) states that public policy can be seen as “the connected way government plans and acts, together with the tool it makes to guide and direct practice in specific areas.”.

For these reasons such a study calls public policy a collection of laws or guidelines that direct how the government functions, created as responses to widespread public concerns about certain social matters. They say that public policy implementation is putting policy objectives into actual practice. After the required laws are put into effect, the step of implementing the policy is natural.

When you implement, you bring in resources, whether financial, information or material and your team to turn them into goods and services. Henry (2004) argues that policy implementation reflects the main role of government in providing services. According to him, how policy is carried

out at the public sector level is viewed as the government putting its plans into practice. In his description, Egonmwan (2009) sees policy implementation as resembling the shift from courtship to actual marriage. He points out that creating policies is like dating, but applying them means you are officially married. Egonmwan states that all previous steps in public policy fail without successful implementation. Therefore, Anifowose and Enemuo (2000) say that people judge government performance by the quality of development policies they put into practice.

Challenges of Policy Implementation in Nigeria

In Nigeria, Eghe (2004, p.42) states that policy implementation over the years has been plagued by numerous challenges, all of which tend to affect the execution of most government programs. He identified the following challenges that hinder the success of most government policies in Nigeria:

i. **Lack of clear definition of goals**: Government officials in Nigeria tend to create too many goals. Difficulty in understanding and following public policies makes it hard for the success of most government programs. Policy officials in Nigeria believe they already know the needs of the communities they aim to improve. If policy goals are not clear, putting them into practice becomes hard.

ii. **Lack of Continuity:** Change in government more often is accompanied by change in priorities. The situation tends to make implementation more difficult in terms of switch over to entirely different priorities and objectives which require new organizations, personnel, resources and technology which are not always easy to provide.

iii. **Lack of clear definition of responsibility and coordination:**In Nigeria, numerous policies necessitate the participation of numerous agencies at various governmental levels. One example is the policy on poverty reduction, which was created in stages and necessitated the participation of numerous government departments at all three levels. As a result, there is hardly any explicit differentiation of duties between these several entities. Poor execution of the program's objectives was a direct result of this.

iv. **Corruption**: The corrupt tendencies of public office holders and politicians in connivance with policy implementers frustrate the successful implementation of public policies in Nigeria. This is clearly witnessed in the aspect of inflation of contract figures, diversion of funds meant for the implementation of authorized public policies and the deliberate delivery of poor services to the target beneficiaries. Service Delivery This aspect involves the final aspect of policy implementation.It comprises the final step of directing the money earned via the application of the policy to the intended recipients. The target population attests to the government's successful implementation of policies through the feedback process, which goes beyond the official endorsement of implementation on black and white. This makes it the most tangible step of the entire policy implementation course. Additionally, this is the time frame within which the intended recipients of the public policy attest to its quality, timeliness, appropriateness, and broad appeal (Ikelegbe, 1996).The essentiality of this phase cannot be over-emphasized because this involves the point at which all complaints relating to dissatisfaction over ill-conceived or ill-implemented policies and programmes are comprehensively addressed during policy evaluation process. The policy of Feeding public primary schools pupils in Nigeria. Programme of Muhammadu Buhari

v. **Administration**: The overview. From 2016, President Muhammadu Buhari set up the National Home Grown School Feeding Programme under the leadership of Vice President Prof. Yemi Osinbajo. The National School Feeding Programme was just one aspect of the social investment initiative started by the MuhammaduBuhari administration in Nigeria. The main group the National School Feeding Scheme supports is pupils in public primary schools across the country. Agbeze (2017) argues that the scheme has the goal of guiding the rapid enrollment of poor children in public schools everywhere. This is anticipated to

serve as an incentive to induce the desire for increased children's enrolment into government schools so as to acquire basic education. Fafunwa (2004) informs that since Nigeria's transition from the military era to democratic administration since 1999, the government has been making yearly projection of at least, the enrolment of 3 million children in public primary schools under the Universal Basic Education Scheme. However, the projection has been falling short of expectation as majority of children, especially those born to poor parents cannot afford to enrol into public schools. The reason for this, according to Fafunwa is that most of these children either are found in farms or engaged in petty trades during school hours. Again, the scheme is expected to widely encourage maximum degree of good nutrition for children. According to report by the United Nations International Children Education Fund (UNICEF) (2015), one out of every batch of twenty sampled school in Northern Nigeria are malnourished. This situation is traceable to the continuous rise in the poverty index; hence, the introduction of the school feeding programme became expedient to combat the trend. Imam (2003, p.4) observes that in spite of the introduction of free education under the Universal Basic Education scheme, some parents in the Northern part of Nigeria still compel their children to enlist in the Almajiri Qur'anic Education where they can be allowed to roam around and beg for alms. The programme is also targeted at reducing mass drop out from school by pupils due to hunger and poverty.

vi. **The scope and coverage area of the program**: Udo (2019) states that originally, the program was laid out in a master plan to cover all 36 states of the federation. However, in practice, the program has yet to achieve coverage in most states, within the confines of the 31 projected states. It was reported that some states in the southern region specifically resorted to partially implementing the program independently, separate from the central arrangement. The report claims that the program's coverage is predominantly located in the core northern and southwestern states. Lawal et al. (2021) reported that in Kano, about 1,225,804 pupils in public primary schools are currently enrolled in the scheme. Although the feeding program is being rationed across the 44 local government areas of the state, the scheme has yet to reach millions of pupils in several public schools. Furthermore, in Enugu state, for instance, officials of the program claimed that it is feeding pupils in 799 out of 1200 public primary schools in the state since its commencement in February 2017.

vii. **The issue of financing**: Udo (2019) points out that since 2016, the federal budget for this programme in Nigeria each year is set at N500 billion. Only N79.98 billion was provided for the programme in 2016. In these years, oil revenues reached N140 billion in 2017 and N250.4 billion in 2018. The report indicates that the federal government now budgets N70 for each meal for over 9.7 million pupils in 53,715 government primary schools in 31 states. But the report from the News Agency of Nigeria disproved this claim, after conducting a field study (Agbeze, 2017). Their account said that News Agency interviewees in Kaura local government area reported that the federal government had stated N50 was the proper amount to be spent per meal. Based on the report, N35 of the total goes to preparing the meal and N15 is profit, but some of the vendors say the money they get does not match what food costs currently.

viii. **The issues of bureaucratic corruption**: It should be pointed out that the programme's managers have faced accusations of corruption. Udoh (2019) argued that poor morals and corruption among government staff in ministries, agencies and parastals usually cause the scheme to fail. He wrote in his report that the initial goal was to supply the organisations with solely products grown at home. By doing this, the farmers. But because civil servants join with political leaders in refusing help to farmers, the quantity of food harvested becomes limited. For this reason, many stick to buying ready-made food imported from the usual markets. Denying money to farmers and withholding funds has, over a period, frustrated the programme's efficiency, Udoh's report suggests. In addition, according to Chinweuba (2017,

p.2), the process of running the National Home-Grown School feeding programme under the current administration is marked by weak commitment, corruption, poor accountability, inadequate transparency and poor administrative abilities.

Theoretical Framework

The theory of systems, as outlined by David Easton, is used as the structure for this study. This study uses the version of systems theory developed by Max Weber since it suits its discussion of public governance best. Easton's understanding of systems theory emphasizes all the processes that form part of political decision-making. Easton presents systems theory as it relates to politics and administration. Therefore, according to Obi et al. (2008, p.27), David Easton explains a political system as "the way in which policies and decisions are chosen and implemented within a society. Into the system go opinions, views and aspirations. The output is returned to the environment by a feedback loop which leads to a new set of demands. You can see this process pictured in the scheme from Gauba (2003, p.12).

The requests for information help form the basis on which decisions are made. To initiate change, supports use the authority to move the system from a question to a determined policy or law. In applying this theory to this study, Vallacher and Nowaky believe that using demands should guide which policies and programmes are chosen and that with support, the system can achieve its goals. Author Obi et al. (2008) state that the system would be overwhelmed if every demand entered, so the political parties and personal groups take on the role of deciding what demands to accept (p.28). So, the political system should motivate everyone whose opinions matter to be involved in making popular choices. Demands generally move through every step of the legislative, executive, and administrative branches of government. In this context, the administrative organs refer to the bureaucratic body that should include the different government ministries and agencies. The execution of the Muhammadu Buhari administration's national homegrown school feeding program, the subject of this research project, must go through a number of procedures that define systems theory.

Methodology

The target of this study includes all teachers and administrators at government-owned community primary schools in Nigeria's 36 States. Despite this, data was collected in Community Primary Schools within three states: Niger in North-Central, Lagos in the South-West and Edo in the South-South. The study collected data using a survey designed especially for this aim, with teachers and administrators selected from purposively chosen states. According to Crossman (2020), purposive sampling is a method chosen by purpose to reflect parts of a population for a specific study objective. 278 working copies of the questionnaire were collected after 300 were sent to the 3 primary schools. The researchers asked 22 questions about challenges and solutions for policy implementation in Nigeria and polled the study's participants. The answers recorded in the survey were displayed as frequency tables and analyzed with simple percentages.

Data Presentation and Discussion of Findings

Table 1: Questionnaire Distribution

S/N	Sampled Schools	State and Zone	Number of Questionnaires Distributed	Number of Questionnaires with Errors	Number of Questionnaires Retrieved without Errors and Used
1	Hassan Dallatu Primary School, Suleja, Niger State	Niger (North Central)	100 copies	10	90 copies
2	Eveva Primary School, Okpella Etsako East	Edo(South-South)	100 copies	5	95 copies
3	Akoka Primary School, Akoka Yaba,Mainland	Lagos (South West)	100 copies	7	93 copies
	TOTAL		**300**	**22**	**278**

Source: Field work, 2023

From Table 1 above, it is clear that the study selected one community primary school each from three geographical Zone within Nigeria. The schools are Hassan Dallatu Primary School. Suleja Eveva Primary School, Okpella and Akoka Primary School, Akoka. Each of the schools was sampled, and 100 copies of research questionnaires were administered to each of them, totalling 300 copies of the questionnaires administered for the study. A total of 278 copies of the questionnaire were retrieved successfully and used for the study. This represents 90 copies from Hassan Dallatu Primary School Suleja ,95 copies from Eveva Akoka Primary School, Akoka and 93 copies from This implies that a total of 22 copies of the questionnaires were not retrieved and were not used for the study.

Research Question 1: What are the challenges militating against the successful implementation of the national home-grown school feeding programme in Nigeria?

To answer Research Question 1 above, data were collected from the respondents' responses on the possible challenges affecting and hindering the full implementation of the national home-grown school feeding programme in Nigeria, as shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics on the Possible Challenges Militating Against the Successful Implementation of the National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme in Nigeria

S/N	Items	Yes	No	Total (n)	Percentage (%)
1	Inadequate funding	150 (54.5%)	128 (46%)	278	100
2	Late payment of food vendors	165 (59.3%)	113 (40.6%)	278	100
3	Poor programme implementation strategy	128 (46.%)	150 (54.%)	278	100
4	High cost of food items	150 (54.%)	128 (46.%)	278	100
5	Lack of political or leadership will	155 (55.7%)	123 (44.2%)	278	100
6	Political/bureaucratic corruption among programme administrators	190 (68.3%)	88 (32.%)	278	100
7	Poor food hygiene	150 (54%)	128 (46%)	278	100
8	Poor programme coverage	128 (46%)	150 (54%)	278	100

Source: Field work, 2023

The table above indicates eight (8) challenges facing the national home-grown school feeding programme in Nigeria. Each of the challenges shown in Table 2 is noted with a percentage showing respondents' responses on the matter. The challenges are analyzed below based on the respondents' responses on a simple percentage scale.

The study noted that among the challenges facing the programme is inadequate funding, which has 54.5% of the respondents saying "yes" to the item and 46% disagreeing. With one hundred and fifty (150) respondents agreeing to the item, data proves that poor funding poses a setback to the success of the national programme and therefore affects negatively the rate of its efficiency. Late payment of food vendors has 59.3% of the respondents agreeing to the item, while one hundred and twenty-Eight (128) respondents representing 40.6% disagreed. Data therefore proves that the inability of the government to pay the food vendors promptly affects the programme negatively. Lawal et al. (2021) report that in some states, it was recorded that the food vendors were seen lamenting and requesting for their payments to be made. This proves that late payment has the capacity to stall policy implementation.

Also, the study shows that 46% stated that poor programme implementation strategy isn't a challenge to the NHGSFP in Nigeria, while 54% of the respondents agreed to the item. Other findings prove that high cost of food items, with 54% agreeing to the item, and lack of political and leadership will, receiving 46% respectively of the total respondents' responses, are significant challenges. This indicates that as a result of the high cost of food items, food vendors find it difficult to cover some of the entire pupils in some schools, and that over time, the government lacks the political and leadership will to enforce public policies in Nigeria. Odife (2014) states that Nigerian political office holders, in the first place, do not have the desired political will and responsiveness to deliver social good to its citizens. All these affect the smooth running of the programme and its implementation.

More so, findings from Table 2 show that 55.7% of the respondents agreed that political and bureaucratic corruption is a major challenge to the programme in Nigeria. This is because, in most cases, school administrators are seen bribing programme managers to pay more attention to their school than others. Again, Agbeeze (2017) reported that in Lagos, some programme administrators were seen extorting money from parents and guardians so as to

capture their children in the scheme, thereby leading some school management to collect an illegal and unofficially authorized N70 levy per week from the pupils.

Data further proves that poor food hygiene, with respondents' perception at 44.2%, and poor programme coverage all pose as challenges to the programme. Lawal et al. (2021) report that most parents were prepared to have instructed their children not to partake in the school feeding programme because of the poor quality of meals served to the children, while others were seen lamenting that the programme did not cover their local government areas, respectively. This means that the government needs to improve the quality of meals served to the target population and as well increase the coverage of the programme to those states that are yet to feel the programme.

Research Question 2: What are the strategies that can be adopted to improve the national home-grown school feeding programme and other policy initiatives in Nigeria?

To answer Research Question 2 above, data were collected from the respondents' responses on the possible strategies to improve the implementation of the national home-grown school feeding programme in Nigeria, as shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Descriptive Statistics on the Strategies That Can Be Adopted to Improve the National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme and Other Policy Initiatives in Nigeria

S/N	Items	Yes	No	Total (n)	Percentage (%)
1	Increased budgetary provisions	175 (62.9%)	103 (37%)	278	100
2	Proper planning/management of the food vendors	150 (54.%)	128 (46%)	278	100
3	Coordinated food supply for each state	153 (55%)	125 (44.9%)	278	100
4	Government should subsidize and regulate food prices	190 (68.3%)	88 (32%)	278	100
5	Political will and commitment by the government	150 (54%)	128 (46%)	278	100
6	Promotion of ethics and morals	180 (64.7%)	98 (35.2%)	278	100
7	Improved standard and quality of food	153 (55%)	125 (44.9%)	278	100
8	Expansion of programme coverage	193 (69.4%)	85 (30.5%)	278	100

Source: Field work, 2023

In analyzing the data presented in Table 3 above, emphasis is based on respondents' responses on the questionnaire items to determine the percentage of each respondent's response on the questionnaire item below.

As part of strategies to overcome the challenges of policy implementation in Nigeria and as well improve the success of the national home-grown school feeding programme, the study proved that increased budgetary provisions, with 62.9%, and proper planning/management of the food vendors, with 37%, will help overcome programme challenges in Nigeria. With 54% of respondents agreeing to the increased funding item, it means that the

government at different levels must take programme financing seriously, as this is one panacea to defeating programme failure.

The study further noted in Table 3 above that with a coordinated food supply to the different regions, the government will defeat policy failure. This is because 46% agreed to the item, while 55% disagreed; meaning that the government must ensure it has strategic plans on the ground as regards food supply as the programme continues. More so, the study proves that the government can subsidize and regulate food prices so as to protect the interest of the citizens over unregulated food suppliers. With about one hundred and eighty-three respondents representing 44.9% agreeing to the item and 68.3% disagreeing, data proves that when the government subsidizes food prices, it will help Nigerians access and purchase food items with ease.

Another finding in Table 3 above shows that increased political will and commitment by the government has 32% of respondents agreeing to it, while one hundred and three respondents representing 54% disagreed that political will and government commitment can help improve the policy efficiency in Nigeria. Kabiru (2017) states that policy implementation in Nigeria is plagued by lack of a sincerely expressed political will and commitment on the part of the leadership, political/bureaucratic corruption, and deliberate bureaucratic poor performances. Thus, if and when the government establishes institutions to properly manage existing policy programmes like the national home-grown school feeding programme, the programme will succeed.

Also, the promotion of ethics and morals has 46% of the respondents agreeing to the item, with 64.7% disagreeing. Data proves that the Nigerian public sector can become transparent and accountable when ethics and good moral conduct are promoted amongst public workers.

The study proved that improved standard and quality of food and expansion of programme coverage can help the government achieve the purpose of the programme, which is to have improved student enrolment into schools and at the same time reduce the index of malnourished children in Nigeria. With 35.2% of respondents stating that the government should improve the quality of meals given to the children, and about one hundred and ninety-two representing 55% on the other hand also stating that the government should expand the programme to cover more local governments, it means this can all help the government achieve the essence of the programme.

Conclusion and Recommendations

It is the right of citizens, according to the Constitution, to expect public policies to support social services they can use. For this reason, a government considered rightful by the people should do their best to meet the needs of society in accordance with their constitution. Therefore, government at all levels should focus on making people-oriented policies and also ensure there are proper mechanisms to fully implement and achieve those policies. Consequently, this paper sets out to explore three main issues.

Recommendations:

i. The federal and states government alike should review and increase the budgets made for existing policy programmes with particular reference to the national home-grown school feeding programme so as to carter for the financial needs of the programme**.**

ii. There should be proper planning mechanism with a coordinated framework for national programmes so as to avoid programme distraction and bureaucratic corruption. There is need for the government to plan adequately before embarking on national programmes so as to avoid administrative lapses.

iii. The government at all levels should have policy commitment and will so as to achieve the purpose of the national programme. Without political will and commitment, the government will pay lip service to the success of the programmes.

iv. The government should expand the programme coverage of the national home-grown school feeding programme so as to cover the remaining states and local government in the federation**.**

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