PEOPLE'S PERCEPTION ON THE ROLE OF THE NIGERIA'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN THE IMPELEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, 2015-2023

[1]AMINU MUSA, [2]MASANAWA ABDULSAMAD MAIWADA, [3]RABIU ISHAQ & [4]SAHABI M. JABO

[1,3&4]DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, FEDERAL UNIVERSITY BIRNIN KEBBI, KEBBI STATE, NIGERIA

[2]DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, DISTANCE LEARNING CENTRE, AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, ZARIA, NIGERIA

Corresponding Author: a.musa@fubk.edu.ng

KEYWORDS
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Implementation, National Assembly

ABSTRACT

While abundant literature focuses more on role of National Assembly in SDGs, this study examines people's perceptions on the role of National Assembly in domesticating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nigeria from 2015 – 2023. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design in which data were collected through a questionnaire administered to 200 respondents, out of which, 193 were collected from the respondents. Data collected was subjected to percentage analysis, means and standard deviation. According to the findings there are many challenges associated with the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria, which includes: lack of political will is a significant challenge in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), inadequate financial resources pose a challenge to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), insufficient public awareness and engagement hindering the progress of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Equally, cconflicts and instability in various regions globally impede the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Hence, the study concludes that these challenges highlighted the multifaceted nature of the obstacles facing SDG achievement in the country and emphasize the need for comprehensive and coordinated efforts across sectors to overcome them. The study recommends that there is need to address conflicts and instability in various regions of Nigeria through prioritize efforts to promote peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and inclusive development to create an enabling environment for SDG implementation. Also, to encourage cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination among government agencies, civil society organizations, the private sector, and international partners to address the multifaceted challenges of SDG implementation.

Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by United Nations member states in 2015, represented a comprehensive and ambitious blueprint for global development. Rooted in the principle of leaving no one behind in terms of holistic development, these goals aim to address interconnected areas of challenges and improve the well-being of people worldwide. Nigeria, as a signatory to the SDGs, is committed to integrating them into its implementable national development agenda, recognizing their significance in addressing key issues facing its citizens. The SDGs encompass a broad spectrum of concerns, reflecting the complex and multifaceted nature of sustainable development. At their core, is the overarching objective of ending poverty in all its ramificationss, recognizing poverty as a significant barrier to progress across various dimensions of human development. This commitment underscores the importance of uplifting marginalized communities and ensuring equitable access to opportunities and resources (United Nations, 2015).

Furthermore, the SDGs emphasize the importance of environmental sustainability, acknowledging the critical role of ecosystems in supporting life on earth. In the face of climate change and environmental degradation, actions to conserve natural resources, mitigate pollution, and promote sustainable practices are essential for safeguarding the planet for future generations. Health and education are also central to the SDGs, as they are fundamental drivers of human development and well-being. Access to quality healthcare and education is not only a basic human right but also a catalyst for economic growth and social progress. By investing in healthcare systems, improving educational outcomes, and ensuring inclusive access to services, countries can empower individuals and communities to thrive (Olowoporoku, 2018).

Gender equality is another key focus area of the SDGs, recognizing the importance of addressing gender-based disparities and promoting women's empowerment. Achieving gender equality is not only a moral developmental imperative but also a strategic priority for advancing sustainable development, as it unlocks the full potential of societies and fosters inclusive growth. Economic growth is essential for lifting people out of poverty and creating opportunities for prosperity. However, the SDGs advocate for a more inclusive and sustainable approach to economic development, one that promotes job creation, fosters innovation, and ensures equitable distribution of wealth (Olowoporoku, 2018).

While the above articulated areas of the SDGs represent the focus of any government in ensuring democratic governance, Nigeria, as Africa's most populous country and largest economy, faces numerous development challenges that the SDGs aim to address. This underscores the roles played by her National Assembly, comprising the Senate and the House of Representatives in its implementation. The NASS as a people's representative institution is constitutionally empowered to not only provide a legal framework for sustainable development but ensure implementation of SDGS through its oversight functions. While the role of NASS has been extensively studied in academic literature, perceptions of people on the roles played by NASS in the implementation of SDGs has not adequately been studied. This has created a lingering gap in the literature of sustainable development.

This paper addresses a fundamental research gap of assessing people's perception on the roles of the Nigerian National Assembly (NASS) in the execution of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially using its instrumentality of oversight function.

Conceptual Review

The Concept of Legislature

The legislature as one of the fundamental organs of government is seen as a representative agency that is vested with responsibility of making laws. This has been argued that "The legislature is widely assumed in extant literature to be a form of representative democracy" (Nwaubani, 2014). That is why they are meant to ensure social and economic development. It is also seen as the group of people democratically elected to represent various constituencies in the process of lawmaking and oversight functions (Tom & Attai, 2014).

According to Basiru (2014), Parliament rarely exercised even minimal oversight of the executive during the First Republic, despite the inclusion of parliamentary oversight provisions in the 1960 Constitution. The government relied heavily on the executive branch and did not have

the authority to monitor it. This is basically due to heavy centralization of authority within the parliamentary system during the First Republic, which was often seen as one of the major factors. This resulted in the National Assembly becoming defunct. Then, in 1979, spiraling military rule gave way to a civilian government. Unlike its predecessor, the 1979 Presidential Constitution – as its name suggests – introduced separation of powers, departing from the fusion model of the parliamentary constitution. The 1979 Constitution states in Section 4(1) that Legislative Powers of the Federation shall be vested in a National Assembly consisting of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Instrument of Legislative Oversight

Parliamentarians play a vital role in advancing sustainable development, particularly in the effort to execute the 2030 Agenda and its related SDGs. The people's elected representatives, the legislators, are also required to actively pursue a people-driven development agenda which is closely aligned with the requirements of their diverse constituencies. Over the last few decades, there has been growing awareness of the need to actively involve legislators in attempts to pursue sustainable development pathways which are environmentally sensitive and inclusive at the same time. By virtue of their empowerment, in the enactment of laws and policy oversight functions like budgetary control and other legislative activities in hearing the views of constituents, the legislatures, have sufficient the inclusive, participatory and open governance frameworks, for all to meet the goals of sustainable development.

Challenges of the Legislators' Oversight on SDGs

The overview of legislative oversight functions in Nigeria shows that Nigerian legislators must commit additional efforts toward establishing effective good governance practices. Many obstacles obstruct the legislative oversight performance, which requires appropriate remedies to achieve efficient execution. Some of these challenges include:

Lack of Capacity

Nigerian legislatures often lack the technical expertise and resources necessary to effectively conduct oversight functions. Many legislators may not have the requisite knowledge or training in areas such as finance, law, or public administration to scrutinize government activities thoroughly (Ibrahim, 2013).

Political Interference

The oversight process is often marred by political interference, as legislators may prioritize partisan interests over their oversight responsibilities. This may lead to selective oversight or reluctance to hold the executive accountable, especially when members of the legislature are affiliated with the ruling party (Suleiman, 2015).

Corruption and Bribery: Corruption within the legislative body itself can undermine effective oversight. Some legislators may accept bribes or other forms of inducements from the executive in exchange for overlooking government mismanagement or corruption (Adewale & Amuda, 2017).

Executive Resistance

The executive branch often resists legislative oversight attempts, limiting access to information or failing to comply with legislative inquiries. This resistance can impede the legislature's ability to effectively scrutinize government actions and expenditures (Duru, 2016).

Dysfunctional Democratic Culture

The democratic system in Nigeria remains in a precarious state since military influence continues to interfere occasionally with democratic processes. Basic democratic principles, which include institutional accountability, the rule of law alongside free and fair elections remain scarce. The absence of democratic principles has led to reductions in democratic cultural frameworks alongside institutional and structural systems. As the foremost democratic institution the legislature frequently experiences criticism from the public which leads to negative attention. The executive periodically demonstrates animosity toward the institution through its actions according to Egwu (2005).

Legislators' Private Interests

It is well-known that many of the elected representatives in both chambers of the

legislature at the federal and state levels operate purely on self-serving motives which are usually counter to their mandates. When individual benefits take precedence over the common good, as at times happens in the case of the national assembly, then the system is bound to breakdown and efficiency of legislation will be affected.

SDGs in Nigeria

Nigeria has shown robust political will towards nationally domesticated ownership and the execution of the SDGs. In this regard, President Muhammadu Buhari made a commitment by placing a SSA on the SDGs (Senior Special Assistant on Sustainable Development Goals) whose primary responsibility is to coordinate all interventions relating to the SDGs, national level tracking, reporting, and managing all operational processes towards results (OSSAP SDGs) Ogunleye, 2020. For ease and efficiency, the presidency provided the SSAP (OSSAP-SDGs) with an oversight office that politically enables robust and effective command and influence enduring high level capture and sustain policy ellipsis over executive resources at no cost. Nigerian government had also assigned seasoned public workers and professionals to the Office of Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals who are expected to provide an amalgamation of skilled professionals, creative talent along with a reservoir of organizational memory for effective lesson and knowledge documentation and dissemination for future reference. To effectively mobilize all available human and material resources and actively involve other stakeholders, a Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG) and a Donors' Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals were recently established. Additionally, a Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Advisory Group on Sustainable Development Goals was also formed in consort with other groups fought through different instruments to achieve sustainable development (United Nations, 2015).

Review of Empirical Studies

Ignatius (2021) conducted study on appraisal of the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 2030 in Nigeria. The United Nations member states adopted the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 aiming at achieving equity and prosperity by 2030. There are Solutions Networks which gathers data and monitors the progress of countries and regions towards achieving the SDGs. It is an advancement from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which were active between 2000 and 2015. Women and Gender Equality is instrumental to each of the 17 goals. The UN 2020 Progress Report on SDGs 2030 reviewed the progress made across the world and found that several nations including Nigeria are unlikely to meet the 2030 target. It was also noted that although some progress has been made over the last five years, lagging performance continues to be a global challenge. The Nigerian voluntary national review of 2020 came out in the middle of a Covid-19 pandemic, destructive flooding across the country, constant insecurity, and deep-seated corruption. There was a recommendation that all policies crafted and actions taken during and post this pandemic be aimed to create more equal and inclusive economies.

Akinloye, (2018) focused on the effort of maximizing religious leaders in the context of a case study "The Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria." In 2015, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was deemed a failure, leading to the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2016. These SDGs are internationally regarded as a significant improvement, especially considering absent criteria on universal sustainability and development provided generous latitude to developmental missions. The SDGs framework has greater acceptance compared to MDGs because of its multi-dimensional approach towards global development. Nevertheless, the lack of awareness, acceptance and involvement of the populace are key obstacles for achieving SDGs. This leaves us with the issue of facilitative dissemination and awareness, fundamental for the populace to participate actively to make the SDGs a success. Religious leaders are often regarded as key institutional stakeholders and actors shaping people's perceptions of public affairs, therefore deemed as vital avenues of influence. It argues that leaders have a strong impact on the lives of their followers because in Nigeria, and most of Africa, trust and respect is placed to a greater extent on the views of religious leaders than on those of politicians. The paper further argues that if the global agenda of the SDGs is to be achieved by encouraging a greater number of Nigerians to accept and actively participate in the sustainable goals, then, the power of religious leaders must be sought and utilized.

Olagoke's (2017) work titled 'Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria: What Role(S) For Nigeria's Indigenous Languages?' attempts to critique the dream of realizing the SDGs using definitions in Nigeria's indigenous languages. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or Global Goals (GG) is a policy strategy and programming document by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which all member countries of the UN are expected to implement from 2016 to 2030. An evaluation of the state of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Nigeria, which provides a launch pad for the SDGs, and which was to be implemented between 2000-2015 shows that Nigeria is struggling to meet 25 percent of the MDGs. The reasons behind the country's tremendous challenges do not seem to evoke much action from the government. The paper has revealed that increase in illiteracy level has been responsible for the problem of poverty in Nigeria. Information SDGs are disseminated to Nigerian citizens through the use of indigenous languages on government platforms. Unfortunately, only 79 million Nigerians out of a population of about 200,000 million can speak and understand the English language.

Previous studies have highlighted the importance of legislative involvement in driving sustainable development agendas (e.g., Ignatius (2021), Akinloye, (2018), Olagoke, (2017). However, there is limited empirical research focusing on the role of national legislatures, particularly in the context of developing countries like Nigeria. Understanding how the National Assembly engages with the SDGs is essential for assessing the effectiveness of legislative efforts in promoting sustainable development and identifying areas for improvement.

Theoretical Framework: Structural-Functionalist Perspective

This theory in social sciences as is often referred to, seeks to define the reasons behind the establishment of order and stability in a given society and the relevant arrangements within such society, which maintain such order and stability. In the construction of a structural functional theory, societal practices and social machineries are considered as prevailing variables. Thus, an adequate explanation for a social system must also include an accounting of the social structures, their respective functions, and the societal developments, and instruments that, if they are adequately present, enable such structures to perform certain functions (Holt, 1967).

As stated by Enemuo in 1999, some of the exponents of the structural functionalist approach to political scholarship claims that every administrative system has specific roles within the political system. Using Estonian analogy as a starting point, Almond tries to identify all the functions which could be considered as among inputs and outputs of an all-encompassing political system. However, interest articulation and interest aggregation are on the input side of the political system. Functions of political system from the output side comprise rule-making, rule application, and rule adjudication. Political communication is done to inform all the participants in the political system and those outside of the political system as to what activities are taking place in, or are scheduled to take place in, the political system. Furthermore, each system carries out systems maintenance and adaptation functions through political socialization and recruitment of human resources to the system. In Almond and Powell (1969), it is stated that the system of any polity can also be judged regarding its functioning capability and how efficiently it operates as a unit in its surroundings. These systems are judged concerning how they are performing in their environment, how they are adapting the environment to their needs, and how they are influenced by the environment using the concepts of regulative, extractive, distributive, and responsive capability. It is without a doubt that basic concepts of structural functionalism revolve around two fundamental ideas: functions and structures.

Research Methodology

The study employed a survey design. For this research, different ministries, together with their appropriate officers who are directly concerned with the implementation of SDGs, as well as the SDGs staff formed the sample population. There was purposive sampling done on the ministries and agencies that are responsible for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals. In the same way, every group of respondents from the sampled ministries were chosen using simple random sampling.

Sample size for the study was determined using Taro Yemani (1964) formula for sample size determination.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{400}{1 + 400(0.5)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{400}{1 + 400(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{400}{2}$$

$$n = 200$$

Consequently, 200 respondents would suffice for the goal of this study on evaluating the oversight function of the National Assembly of Nigeria on the implementation of the SDGs in Nigeria. The sample selection is in accordance with Krejcie & Morgan (1970) who stressed that sample size should be determined through classifying scheme. A primary data was collected through structured interviews which relate directly to the research questions so that the ideas collated vis a vis the questionnaire are as harmonious as possible. The questionnaire was designed on a five point Linker scale ranging from strongly agree (5) to strongly disagree (1). Data analysis forms one of the most important and integral steps in the research work. Data that was collected for this study was presented in tabulated form. The researcher however, used the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) in analyzing the data obtained.

Data Presentation, Analysis and Results

A questionnaire is the primary data that was used in this presentation and analysis of the data collected. Out of 200 questionnaires distributed;

$$\text{Returned } 96.5\% = \frac{193}{200} \times 100$$

$$\text{Unreturned } 3.5\% = \frac{7}{200} \times 100$$

193 were successfully returned and valid, representing 96.5%, while 7 were not returned, representing 3.5%

Table 1: Use of the 1999 Constitution by members of the Nigeria's National Assembly to oversight Sustainable Development Goals

Variables	N	Min.	Max.	Mean	Std. D
The National Assembly is effectively utilizing the 1999 Constitution to oversee the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	193	1	5	2.56	1.619
The National Assembly exercise its constitutional mandate to ensure accountability in the implementation of SDGs	193	1	5	1.91	1.316
The Committee system in National Assembly maintain oversight on Sustainable Development Goals	193	1	5	2.55	1.658
The National Assembly provides sufficient oversight mechanisms to monitor the progress of SDGs-related initiatives	193	1	5	1.94	1.226
The National Assembly collaborate with relevant stakeholders (government agencies, NGOs, civil society) to oversee the alignment of policies and actions with the SDGs	193	1	5	2.25	1.434
The National Assembly adequately allocates resources and budgets to support the achievement of SDGs targets	193	1	5	2.26	1.597
The National Assembly to addressing challenges and gaps in the implementation of SDGs	193	1	5	2.22	1.532
The National Assembly engage with citizens and communities in its oversight role concerning SDGs	193	1	5	1.95	1.367

The National Assembly's performance in overseeing the implementation of SDGs using the 1999 Constitution as a framework	193	1	5	2.03	1.510
The average item score for the extent of National Assembly using the 1999 Constitution to oversight Sustainable Development Goals				**2.20**	
The extent National Assembly using the 1999 Constitution to oversight Sustainable Development Goals variables total score (5-45)				**19.67**	

***Source: Field Survey, 2024*.**

Table 1 assesses respondent perspectives on the extent National Assembly using the 1999 Constitution to oversight Sustainable Development Goals. It reveals that the National Assembly is effectively utilizing the 1999 Constitution to oversee the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has the highest means score of 2.56 and a standard deviation of 1.62. Conversely, the National Assembly exercise its constitutional mandate to ensure accountability in the implementation of SDGs has the lowest mean score of 1.91, accompanied by a standard deviation of 1.32. The cumulative extent National Assembly using the 1999 Constitution to oversight Sustainable Development Goals score stands at 19.67, with an average mean of 2.20 within a potential range of 5 to 45. This suggests that, on average, the mean score is below the midpoint of 3.0, which implies that NASS as an agency of government has been using the 1999 Constitution to oversight Sustainable Development Goals as expected.

Table 2: Activities of the National Assembly Committee on Sustainable Development Goals during oversight function

Variables	N	Min.	Max.	Mean	Std. D
The Committee system in the National Assembly adequately addresses Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in its agenda.	193	1	5	2.47	1.551
The Committees in the National Assembly actively monitor the progress of SDGs implementation.	193	1	5	2.08	1.501
The Committee hearings and inquiries sufficiently focus on issues related to achieving SDGs.	193	1	5	2.02	1.377
The Committee reports effectively highlight areas of concern and progress regarding SDGs.	193	1	5	2.48	1.732
The Committee system encourages stakeholder participation and input towards SDGs oversight.	193	1	5	3.59	1.656
The Committee system in the National Assembly adequately addresses Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in its agenda.	193	1	5	2.47	1.551
The National Assembly engage with citizens and communities in its oversight role concerning SDGs	193	1	5	2.02	1.420
The Committee system adequately allocates resources and time towards SDGs oversight activities.	193	1	5	2.09	1.538
The average item score for by what method does the Committee system in National Assembly maintain oversight on Sustainable Development Goals				**2.40**	
How does the Committee system in National Assembly maintain oversight on Sustainable Development Goals variables total score (5-40)				**19.22**	

***Source: Field Survey, 2024*.**

Table 2 assesses respondent perspectives on the way and manner the Committee system maintains oversight on Sustainable Development Goals. It reveals that the committee system encourages stakeholder participation and input towards SDGs oversight has the highest means score of 3.59 and a standard deviation of 1.66. Conversely, the committee hearings and inquiries sufficiently focus on issues related to achieving SDGs has the lowest mean score of 2.02, accompanied by a standard deviation of 1.38. The cumulative score on the extent of the Committee system in National Assembly maintains oversight on Sustainable Development Goal score stands at 19.22, with an average mean of 2.40 within a potential range of 5 to 40. This suggests that, on average, the mean score is below the midpoint of 3.0. Which implies that the committee system in National Assembly maintain oversight on Sustainable Development Goals.

Table 3: Strategies adopted by the National Assembly Committee on Sustainable Development Goals

Variables	N	Min.	Max.	Mean	Std. D
The National Assembly actively incorporates Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into legislative agendas and discussions	193	1	5	3.52	1.535
There is adequate allocation of resources within the National Assembly to support initiatives aimed at achieving SDGs	193	1	5	1.68	1.099
The National Assembly collaborates effectively with relevant stakeholders, including governmental bodies, NGOs, and international organizations, to advance SDGs	193	1	5	1.85	1.213
There is transparency and accountability within the National Assembly concerning its efforts towards SDGs	193	1	5	1.67	1.028
The National Assembly actively seeks public input and participation in SDGs-related decision-making processes	193	1	5	1.76	1.106
The National Assembly conducts awareness and educational campaigns to promote understanding of SDGs among the general population	193	1	5	1.67	1.028
The National Assembly integrates environmental sustainability considerations into its policies and practices	193	1	5	3.77	1.521
The National Assembly addresses social equity and inclusivity in its pursuit of SDGs	193	1	5	1.77	1.136
The average item score for the kind of strategies is the National Assembly using to ensure compliance with Sustainable Development Goals				**2.21**	
The National Assembly strategies for compliance with Sustainable Development Goals variables total score (5-40)				**17.69**	

***Source: Field Survey, 2024*.**

Table 3 assesses respondent perspectives on what strategies is the national assembly using to ensure compliance with sustainable development goals. It reveals that the National Assembly integrates environmental sustainability considerations into its policies and practices has the highest means score of 3.77 and a standard deviation of 1.52. Conversely, there is transparency and accountability within the National Assembly concerning its efforts towards SDGs has the lowest mean score of 1.67, accompanied by a standard deviation of 1.03. The cumulative on which strategies is the National Assembly using to ensure compliance with Sustainable Development Goals score stands at 17.69, with an average mean of 2.21 within a potential range of 5 to 40. This suggests that, on average, the mean score is below the midpoint of 3.0. Which implies that National Assembly is not using strategies to ensure compliance with Sustainable Development Goals.

Table 4: Challenges in the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals

Variables	N	Min.	Max.	Mean	Std. D
Lack of political will is a significant challenge in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	193	1	5	3.83	1.484
Inadequate financial resources pose a challenge to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	193	1	5	3.97	1.262
Insufficient public awareness and engagement hindering the progress of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	193	1	5	4.18	1.123
Conflicts and instability in various regions globally impede the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	193	1	5	3.98	1.248
Inadequate data collection and monitoring a challenge in tracking the progress of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	193	1	5	4.34	1.088
Lack of collaboration and coordination among stakeholders affects the successful implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	193	1	5	4.33	.970
The complexity and interconnectedness of the SDGs make their implementation more challenging	193	1	5	4.29	1.131
insufficient technological infrastructure and innovation hinder the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	193	1	5	3.66	1.599
Resistance to change and entrenched interests a significant barrier to implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	193	1	5	4.07	1.337
The average item score for the challenges in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals				**4.07**	
Challenges in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals variables total score (5-45)				**36.65**	

***Source: Field Survey, 2024*.**

Table 4 assesses respondent perspectives on what are the challenges in the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals? It reveals that inadequate data collection and monitoring a challenge in tracking the progress of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has the highest means score of 4.34 and a standard deviation of 1.10. Conversely, insufficient technological infrastructure and innovation hinder the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has the lowest mean score of 3.66, accompanied by a standard deviation of 1.60. The cumulative on what are the challenges in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals score stands at 36.65, with an average mean of 4.07 within a potential range of 5 to 45. This suggests that, on average, the mean score is above the midpoint of 3.0. Which implies that there are many challenges in the implementation of sustainable development Goals in Nigeria.

Research Findings

The main outcomes of this study were obtained from the analysis and data presentation in this study:

i. Findings revealed that the Nigerian National Assembly has been using the 1999 Constitution to oversight the Sustainable Development Goals. This is because the most of the respondents strongly agreed that the national assembly exercise its constitutional mandate to ensure accountability in the implementation of SDGs, that The committee system within the National Assembly exercises oversight over the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and also affirmed that the National Assembly provides sufficient oversight mechanisms to monitor the progress of SDGs-related initiatives and didn't collaborate with relevant stakeholders (government agencies, NGOs, civil

society) to oversee the alignment of policies and actions with the SDGs.

ii. In addition, the findings revealed that the committee system within the National Assembly exercises oversight over the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). i.e. Although the NASS Committee of hearings and inquiries attempted to focus on issues related to achieving SDGs, the committee's reports didn't effectively highlight areas of concern and progress regarding SDGs.

iii. Furthermore, the study revealed that the National Assembly has a problem of using strategies to ensure compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals. Because the National Assembly most a time doesn't collaborate effectively with relevant stakeholders, like governmental bodies, NGOs, and international organizations, to advance SDGs, no transparency and accountability within the National Assembly concerning its efforts towards SDGs.

Conclusion

The study indicates a significant gap in the alignment of the Nigeria National Assembly's activities with the oversight of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Although most of the rrespondents agreed with the assertion that the National Assembly fulfills its constitutional duty to ensure accountability in SDG implementation, the mechanisms within the National Assembly are not effective to monitor and enforce SDG-related initiatives for national development. Additionally, there is a notable absence of collaboration with relevant stakeholders, such as government agencies, NGOs, and civil society, further hindering oversight and alignment of policies with SDGs.

The committee system within the National Assembly also appears deficient in adequately addressing SDGs. Committee hearings and inquiries lack focus on SDG-related issues, and reports fail to effectively highlight areas of concern and progress in SDG implementation. Furthermore, there is a lack of engagement with citizens and communities in the oversight role concerning SDGs, indicating a disconnect between legislative activities and the needs of the population in achieving sustainable development objectives.

References

Adewale, A. A., & Amuda, Y. J. (2017). Legislative oversight and anti-corruption crusade in Nigeria: A case study of the National Assembly. *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa,* 19(2), 11-31.

Agba, M. S., Chukwurah, D. C. &Achimgu, H (2014). Politics and administrative responsibility in Nigeria.' An assessment of Legislative mandate performance and executive implementation of public programmes. Accessed on the 17th of July, 2018 from www.rcmss.com/214/JGGSDA-2(1), 2-22.

Aiyede, R. (2005). Executive-Legislature Relations in Nigeria's Emerging Presidential Democracy. *UNILAG Journal of Politics*. 2(1), 65-8 7.

Akande, J. O. (2019). The role of the National Assembly in achieving sustainable development goals in Nigeria: An appraisal. *Journal of Public Administration and Governance,* 9(3), 77-87.

Akinloye, I. A. (2018). Towards the implementation of sustainable development goals in Nigeria: Maximizing the influence of religious leaders. *Stellenbosch Theological Journal,* 4(1), 39–60

Almond, G. A. (1956). Comparative political systems. *Journal of Politics*, 1(8), 391-409

Basiru, S. A. (2014). *The Politics of Legislative Oversight in Nigeria's Neo-Colony, 1999-2017*, in E.O.

Benjamin, S. (2010). *National Assembly:* The Limit of Party politics In Legislative Process.

Cloete, F., Wissink, H., & DeConing, C. (2010). *Improving public policy: From theory to practice, Accessed on the 18th of August, 2018* from https://books.google.com/books/about/im porving public poiicy.html

Duru, C. (2016). Legislative oversight in Nigeria: An assessment of the effectiveness of the national assembly. *Journal of Public Administration and Governance,* 6(1), 1-17.

Egwu, S. (2005). *The Legislature in Nigeria's Fourth Republic*. In Gana, A.LIT. and Yakubu, B. (eds.) Democratic Rebirth in Nigeria: 1999-2003.

Enemuo, F. (1999). *Gender and Women Empowerment, in Anifowose,* R. and Enemuo, F. (eds.), Elements of Politics, Lagos: Malthouse Press Ltd

Frolick, C. T. (2016). *Role of legislators in climate change: The case of South Africa.* www.cpahq.org/cpahq/ cpadocs! RoleofLegislatorsin.... Accessed on the 2nd of August, 2018. Global Sustainability at its first meeting, September 19, 2010.

Hallsworth, M., Parker, S. & Rutter, J. (2011). *Policy making in the real world*. https :!/www.institutefor governent.org.uk!sites!default!files Accessed on the 20th of July, 2018.

Holt, R. (1967). *The Methodology of Comparative Research, New York*: The Free Press.

Ibrahim, J. (2013). Legislative oversight and accountability in Nigeria. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science,* 3(18), 138-146.

Ignatius N. A. (2021). An Appraisal of the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 2030 in Nigeria. *Journal of social sciences,* 6(2), 1-23

Makinde, T. (2005). Problems of policy implementation in developing nations: The Nigerian experience. *Journal of Social Sciences*, 11(1), 63-69.

National Assembly of Nigeria. (2017). *National Development Planning Commission (Establishment, etc.) Act 2017*. Retrieved from https://nass.gov.ng/document/download/9310

National Assembly*: People's Assembly* (2018). www.pa.org.za/organisation/national assembly Accessed on the 4th of March, 2018.

Nwaubani, O.O. (2014). The legislature and democracy in Nigeria, (1960-2003): History, constitutional role and prospects. *Research on Humanities and Social Sciences.* 4(15), 1-11.

Office of the SSA to the Nigerian Government on MDGs. (2015) *Nigeria MDG information System* http ://nmis .mdgs .gov.ng/

Ojo, E. O., & Adesina, A. (2017). Institutional and Governance Framework for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria. A*frican Research Review*, 11(1), 57-71.

Olagoke, A. (2017). Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria: What Role(S) For Nigeria's Indigenous Languages?. *European Journal of Research and Reflection in Educational Sciences,* 5(4), 1-19.

Olaniyan, R., & Salau, O. P. (2020). Financing the Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects. *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development*, 11(9), 45-58.

Olowoporoku, D. O. (2018). *Sustainable development goals and the role of the National Assembly in Nigeria.* In R. Olaoye & J. A. Ayoade (Eds.), Nigeria in the twenty-first century: Strategies for political stability and peace (pp. 123-138). Palgrave Macmillan.

Oyewumi, L. W., & Oyewumi, O. J. (2019). Legislative Oversight and the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria. *Journal of Law, Policy and Globalization,* 8(5), 26-34.

Popoola, 0. 0. (2016). Actors in Decision Making and Policy Process. *Global Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences*, 5(1), 47-5 1.

Posner, P. & Park, C. K. (2017). Role of legislature in the budget process: recent trends and innovations. *OECD Journal on Budgeting*. 7(3), 1608-7143.

Saiegh, S. M. (2005). The role of legislatures in the policymaking process. www.researchgate.net/profile/ sebastian saiegh/.... Accessed on the 17th of May, 2018.

Suleiman, A. A. (2015). Legislative oversight and accountability: An assessment of the National Assembly in Nigeria. *African Journal of Political Science and International Relations,* 9(4), 144-153.

Tom, E.J. & Attai, A.J. (2014). The legislature and national development: The Nigerian

experience. *Global Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.* 2(9), 63-78.

Ugwuanyi, B. I & Chukwuemeka, E. O. (2013). The obstacles to effective policy implementation by the public bureaucracy in developing nations: the case of Nigeria. *Kuwait Chapter of Arabian Journal of Business and Management Review,* 2(7), 10 – 11.

UN SDG Action Campaign. (2016). Guide for Parliamentary engagement in implementation, monitoring and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). (2016). Parliaments and SDGs. Fast Facts.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). (n.d.). *About the Sustainable Development Goals.* Retrieved from: https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals/about

United Nations. (2010). *Sustainable Development Goals*. Background

Yagboyaju, D., Ojukwu, C., Salawu, M. & Oni, E. (2016). *Fundamentals of Politics and Governance*. Concept publications limited, Lagos, Nigeria.