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TOPIC:

***POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES IN NIGEIRA AND
CONSTNAT INCREASE IN PETROLEUM PRODUCTS UTOPIAN
ASSUMPTION***

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BY

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PREFACE

Poverty is a world which described the deplorable living conditions of individuals and communities in a state of economic and social durations. In other words, poverty manifests itself not only in economic deprivation but also in terms of individuals inability to access basic social amenities. This an individual's level of economic well being is determined and shaped by complex array of economic and non-economic factors such as political power access to basic infrastructure access to social services such as education, healthcare, and foot. The individual access to these services is inform influenced by his level of economic power.

The poverty situation in Nigeira is at an alarming rate 70% of the population is estimated to live below poverty line that is \$ 1 dollar per day. The high poverty rate has attracted the attention of developed nations to help developing countries to reduce poverty level through direct involvement in poverty alleviation programmes.

This term paper is made up of four chapters, chapter one is an introduction which identifies and classified poverty alleviation pgorammes in Nigeria with the aims and objectives.

Chapter two is talking about Utopian assumption and poverty alleviation programmes in Nigeria. Chapter three is talking about petroleum protests increment, reasons for increase in petroleum products etc. chapter four is the conclusion which talks about achievement of poverty allevation programme, problems and solutions.

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Lastly, it give God all the glory.

Oduche Ebuka

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title page -- --	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--i
Dedication - --	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--ii
Preface -- --	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--iii
Acknowledgment --	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--v
Table of contents --	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--vi

CHAPTER ONE

1.0. Introduction --	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--1
1.1. Definition of Terms --	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--1
1.2. History of Poverty Alleviation Programmes --	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--1
1.3. Aims and Objectives of Poverty alleviation Programme --	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--3

CHAPTER TWO: POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES AND UTOPIAN ASSUMPTIONS

2.1. Utopian assumption --	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--5
2.2. Poverty Alleviation Programmes--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--7

CHAPTER THREE

3.0. Increment of Petroleum Products --	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--8
3.1. Reasons for Petroleum Products Increment --	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--8
3.2. Effect of like of Petroleum Products --	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--9
3.3. Why Petroleum products are of high demand --	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--10

CHAPTER FOUR: CONCLUSION

4.1. Achievement of Poverty Alleviation Programmes --	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--11
4.2. Problems of Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Nigeria --	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--12
4.3. Ways of Remedying Constant Increase in Petroleum products—	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--14
Bibliography								

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Definition of Terms

We start by defining poverty, poverty is or can simply be defined as the state of being poor or unable to provide basic human needs such as feeding, clothing shelter amongst other necessities. The Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary defines poverty as a state of being poor. Poverty alleviation programmes mean the modes being adopted to eradicate poverty in Nigeria. This can be done through creating job opportunities and friendly entrepreneur atmosphere. Example of poverty alleviation programmes in Nigeria include NAPEP which is National Poverty Eradication Programme which is currently mining a problem called “giver back” to encourage Nigerian in Diaspora constitute financially and otherwise to poverty eradication in Nigeria. They are however other organization which are in pursuit of the same goal. Utopian assumption according to Oxford Advanced Learners’ Dictionary is defined as an imaginary place of state in which everything is pocket. Nigeria has made some utopian assumption like many other countries.

1.2. History of Poverty Alleviation Programmes

- Past government have engaged in the past time of glorifying poverty alleviation on the pages of newspapers and news conference but have failed to

deliver. The earliest poverty alleviation programme were in 1972. General Yakubu Gowon's National Accelerated food Production Programme and the Nigeria Agricultural and Co-operative Bank, entirely derogated to funding Agriculture. The NAPEP turned out to be a colossal waste and nothing was achieved. There was the much publicized operation feed the nation in 1978 by the then military strong man Gen Olusegun Obasanjo which expended much money and effort in getting ill-prepared university undergraduates to go to the rural areas to teach the peasant farmers how to farm. The 1979 Shehu Shagari's Green Revolution had the twin objectives of curtalling food production while boosting crop and fibre production. Buhari's government introduced the go back to land programme with variation such as the former rivers state governor Fidelis Oyakhulome's school to land programme and his Lagos-state Counterpart 960/ahna Mudashini's Graduates farming scheme in 1986 Gen. Babangida established the Directorate of food, Roads and rural infrastructures (DFRRI) for rural development. This was meant to provide feeder roads, electricity and potable water and toilet facilities for the rural dwellers. In 1993 Abacha and his wife found a gold mine in his business of pretending to care for the poor. The family support programme and the family economic Advancement Programme.

1.3. Aims and Objectives of Poverty Alleviation

Poverty alleviation programme right from time has had the main objective of eradicating poverty but there are other objectives and Aims associated with poverty alleviation programme. Poverty is one of the most worrisome problems of developing countries like Nigeria successive government have in the past initiated one poverty alleviation programme or the other. But unfortunately most of the citizens in the rural area live below poverty line. The aim of poverty alleviation programme include:

2. **Creating Employment:-** Poverty alleviation programmes create employment for the masses through different ways eg The Green revolution, this employed a good amount of people showing people or encouraging people to go into Agriculture.
3. **Improve standard of living:-** Poverty alleviation programmes also improve the standard of living of the people for example in almost 70% of the population live below \$1 in a day where a dollar equals N147.

The National Poverty alleviation Programme (NAPEP) had these aims in 2001. the first is the youth empowerment scheme (YES) which is concerned with providing unemployed youth opportunities in skill acquisition employment and wealth generation.

The second is the Rural Infrastructural Development Scheme (RIDS). The objectives of this scheme is to ensure the provision and development of

infrastructure needs in the areas of transport, energy, water communication especially in rural areas.

The third is the social welfare service scheme (SOWESS) which aims at ensuring the provision of basic social services including quality primary and special education strengthening the economic power of farmers, providing primary health care and so on.

The last is the National Resource development and conservation scheme (NRDCS). The vision of this scheme is to bring about a participatory and suitable development of Agriculture, mineral and water resources through the following subdivisions. Agricultural resources programme water resources programme, solid mineral resources programme and environmental protection programme.

The target of National poverty Eradication Programme is completely wiped out poverty in Nigeria by the year 2010. The formulators of this programme has identified three stages to the attainment of this ambitious target.

- The first stage is the restoration of hope in the mass of poor people in Nigeria. This involves providing basic necessities to hitherto neglected people particularly in the rural areas.
- The second stage is the restoration of economic independence and confidence.
- The final is the health creation.

CHAPTER TWO

POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES AND UTOPIAN ASSUMPTION

2.1. Utopian Assumption

Utopian assumption is defined as an imaginary place or state in which everything is perfect. People will say can this really be done or can this utopian assumption be reached in Nigeria, the Question is yet to be answered. One of the Utopian assumptions in Nigeria is the LASCO's RACCIES from the seventh time in its just over six years in power the PDP capitalists Pro-imperialists government heated by president Olusegun Obasanjo affected another astronomical in price fuel price of most goods and services skyrocketed. Most section of the working people plus section of the capitalists class in industry and agriculture outrightly condemned and rejected the latest condemned and rejected the latest. Like of fuel price because previous had only reached unlimited heights on masses living standard and the economy as a whole for the masses it was not just a question of mass urgent and rejection but on occasion which is called for the necessity of resistance. On the one hand they waged. I mass protests and generally strike against fuel price like in the past six years. Finally about 5 weeks after August 26 price hike. LASCO met on September 5 to deliberate on this issue and take appropriate actions to fight same. For the first time wide sections of labour and civil society leaders at least verbally open

accepted that the anti-poor, pronec policies such as incessant hike in fuel prices are the inheritable. Consequences of the anti-people reform programmes on the government built around the neo-liberal ideas of the IMF and the hold back. On the basis the September 5 LASCO meeting resolved it has thus become necessary to adopt more far reaching and comprehensive strategies. Mobilize a wider spectrum of the Nigerian society and broaden the issues further LASCO resolves to imitate the emergence of a broad popular movement aimed at a far rech and fundamental restructuring of governance system in the country. The September 5 meeting resolve thus "If by the end of the rallies the objectives of good governances of which democratic pricing of petroleum product is a component has not been achieved. Measured by any yardstick the 2005 LASCO rallies were a huge success across the country. There is only one scientific way to interpret the response of he masses and exemplified in the rallies in issue plainly put, the working masses through their response in their response in these rallies here restated their total rejection of the prevailing economic, political and social dispensation. Unmistakably the masses through their response in the rallies in issue and the previous seven general strikes over same hated fuel price like are demanding an end to the Obasanjo's regime and all pro-rich anti-peoples policies. Sadly, however, most LASCO leaders are either far behind the mass pace and consciousness and or are conscious. Striving to avoid taking

responsibility to actualize the masses aspiration is not consciously striving to frustrate same

2.2. Poverty Alleviation Programme

The following are examples of poverty alleviation programme in Nigeria and the people who established them with the states from the past till date.

1. National Accelerated food production in programme (NAPEP) formed by General Yakubu Gowon in 1972.
2. Operation Feed the Nation formatted by General Olusegun Obasanjo in 1976.
3. Green Revolution Programme founded by Shehu Shagari 1979.
4. Go back to land programme Buhari's government
5. School to land programme by Fidelis Oyakhilome.
6. Graduate farming scheme by Oyakhilome's counter part Gbolahan Mudashiru.
7. Directorate of Food, Roads, and rural infrastructure (DFRRI) by General Babangida in 1986.

These are some of the poverty alleviation programmes in Nigeria. In 1993, Abacha and his wife found a gold mine in the business of pretending to care for the poor. The family support programme and the family economic advancement Programme were set up.

CHAPTER THREE

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS INCREMENT

3.1. Reasons Why Petroleum Products Increase

Petroleum products are in constant increase in Nigeria or even in the world.

The reasons for constant increase in oil products in the world are as follows"

1. The constant increase in the demand for oil products particularly by the emerging economies spearheaded China and India-because of the high demand from China, India, USA and so on the price of oil products are on the increase according to economics increase in demand of a particular commodity leads to increase in price.
2. Wars in the middle east and Iraq –because of the wars in the middle east continues like Israel, Palestine and Iraq so this causes there to be increase in price of oil and also petroleum products.
3. Speculations in oil and money markets.
4. Improper management:- because of improper administration in Nigeria and other countries this causes wrong policies to be made leading to unnecessary increment. In June 2000 and January 2002 when President Obasanjo increased prices of petroleum products. His argument was that he wanted to stop smuggling and illegal bunkering of petroleum products to neighbouring countries.

5. Liberalizing the down-stream sector of oil sector- The major reason behind the incessant fuel price hike is to attempt to liberalize the down-stream sector of the oil industry. By doing so the price of petroleum products will have to be increased in order to usher in fabulous project for capitalists investors.

3.2. Effect of Hike of Petroleum Products

For the past four years the cost of goods and services have risen by more than 200% Nigerians are becoming more miserable and poor because of the indispensable and unimaginable hardship brought upon the working class by the Obasanjo led government each time the government increased the pump prices. It has a multiplier effect on every other good

and services currently the price of kerosene is N32 but being sold at N87 per litre in Lagos and it is not even available at all in many other towns and cities. 70 days the dollar exchanges for N143 as against N86 in 1990 when the regime came to power. That is the reason why 70% of N140 million in Nigeria live below poverty line. This implies that 70% are less than \$1 (143) on a daily basis that is why it is simply crazy for Obasanjo to say the why way to move the country forward is to increase the prices of petroleum product once again...this is nothing but another attempt to guarantee big prompts for the capitalists investors at the express of the working people. The hike in oil, prices in manna for oil producing countries but constitute the major problem of oil

importing countries in fact for oil producing countries between 2000 and 2005 gains could be said to have doubled in value. In current terms for importing countries the oil bill exceeds 10% of OECD non-oil producing member countries. The situation has negative impact on the balance of payment, inflation, employment, growth investment, debt services and the standard of living of the population. Faced with situation the sixth Assembly of the African Union held at khartoum Sudan in January 2006 decided to set up an African petroleum fund whose main objectives will be to mobilize resource to assist African oil importing countries in order to absorb oil shocks and financing of their oil products.

3.3. Why petroleum Products are on high Demand

Petroleum products are in high demand in places like China and India and even in Nigeria because of the multiple uses of petroleum products. They are used as fuels in cars and kerosene used in stores. It is used in industries and factories and also for running engines.

CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

4.1. Achievements of Poverty Alleviation Programmes

Poverty alleviation programmes have had to a lot of development in Nigeria like

1. Capacity building-:

- i. Computerization of human records
- ii. HIV/AIDS prevention, management and Carte
- iii. Training of health educators
- iv. Development of IEC materials
- v. Continuing material education programmes
- vi. Training of Personnel for 7B and malaria
- vii. Control programmes

2. Institutional Development

- i. Supplies of antiretroviral and anti 7B drugs
- ii. Orthopedic equipment for the proposed polio corrective surgery programme
- iii. Ophthalmic equipment for the illness prevention programme.
- iv. Dialysis equipment for the renal unit.
- v. Motor boats or on-boards engines

The current action on poverty alleviation programme running in Lagos

The state government has initiated and is implementing concrete actions deserving of donor support in the following areas.

4.2. Problems of Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Nigeria

The Nigerian government is once again embarking on another attempt to alleviate poverty. The present one looks like it is heading the same way the past one headed. Amongst the reasons why the past poverty alleviation attempt failed were:-

- 1) **The politics of personal rule:-** a distinctive type of political system in which the rivalries and struggles of powerful and willful men rather than impersonal institutions, ideologies, public policies or class interest are fundamentals in shaping political. It is a monopolistic politics as against pluralistic or multiparty politics. It is usually a civilian one party state or a military dictatorship (there is overwhelming believe that Obasanjo PDP government is shifting towards a full blown one party stated). It is the politics of big men who are considerably distant from ordinary people other practices in the personal government are conspiracy factorial politics, clientelism and corruption when governed the ordinary people are the same big men.
- 2) **The top-down-big-man from Lagos and now Abuja** approach- the master and servant relationship associated with the programmes to alleviate poverty.

Government claims they know what being poor is only the poor understands poverty and it is also the poor that know how their poverty could be alleviated, a sick man knows where it hurts him so it stands to reason why the viable alternative to the big man telling the small man what to do, is the ordinary man telling the big man his problems and how he thinks the problem could be solved. The feed is that the poor usually have quite good perception on their own needs and goals and of what would be required. To satisfy and make progress towards them. According to Theory of Approach to development. It is approximate for government to ensure their citizen's active participation and implementing projects, which are supposed to be the beneficiaries.

- 3) **The Rapid Spread of HIV/AIDS:-** This epidemic is more worrisome because of its impact on Agriculture and food security and a larger proportion of infected proportion of infected persons would not only drain resources, but will determine the national livelihood especially in rural areas and a high prevalence rate of the disease worsening the existing weak food security situation of many households in the country. This is because a great number of Nigerians live in the rural areas and work as farmers and related vocation, providing up to 90% of food and other products derived from agriculture. Therefore when women being very susceptible and other family members spend more time take care of the affected victim. It

reduces productivity more so when period of care and attention conflicts peak farming periods. HIV/AIDS will aggravate already bad situation because with sick people in the family productivity will decrease this is to confirm that health could not be generated when health is non-existence.

4.3. Ways of Remediating Constant Increase of Petroleum Products

Increase in price of petroleum products can be remedied in various ways mentioned below;

The working class people must understand that for the political and economic terrorism must stop, they must begin to organize an independent mass based working class political party that will wrest the power from ruling class. The wealth of the nation is not to create in Aso-rock, national and state house of assembly, board rooms etc.

Rather the wealth is created in the factories, mines, workshops etc. And it is only working class who are in the best position to democratically control and manage the resources and wealth for benefits of all and sundry.

Until the working class people wrestle political power from the super-rich capitalist ruling class people should be rest assured that more attacks are going to continually come from the Obasanjo led-government or any capitalist government

whatsoever not only in the oil or industry but for every other sectors, e.g. Nigerian airways, Nigerian Port Authority, WEPA, civil service.

Petroleum products can be reduced by diversification of monocultural crude oil to multicultural economy that is making the economy less dependent on petroleum and its products.

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