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 **AN ARTICLE ON THE POOR ELECTRICTY SUPPLY IN NIGERIA**

Electricity Supply is one of the major problems ravaging Nigeria as of today. It has been utterly neglected by the society and government and it is causing complications in the day to day activities of an average Nigerian .

To know the reasons for poor supply of electricity in Nigeria ,one has to know the history of electricity in Nigeria .Electricity generation started in Nigeria in 1896 but the first electric utility company, known as the Nigerian Electricity Supply Company was established in 1929.By the year 2000, a state owned monopoly, the National Electric Power Authority ( NEPA ), was in charge of the generation, transmission and the distribution of electric power in Nigeria. It operated as a vertical integrated utility company and had a total of generation capacity of about 6,200 MW from 2 hydro and 4 thermal power plants .This resulted in an unstable and unreliable electric power supply situation in the country with customers exposed to frequent power cuts and long period of power outages and an industry characterized by lack of maintenance of power infrastructure, outdated power plants ,low revenues, high losses, power theft and non-cost reflective tariffs .

In the year 2001, the reform of the electricity sector began with the promulgation of the National Electric Power Policy which as its goal the establishment of an efficient electricity market in Nigeria .It had the overall objective of transferring the ownership and management of the infrastructure and assets of the electricity industry to the private sector with the consequent creation of all the necessary structures required to forming and sustain an electricity market in Nigeria .

In 2005, the electric Power sector Reform ( ESPR ) Act was enacted and the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) was established as an independent regulatory body for the electricity industry in Nigeria . In addition, the Power Holding Company of Nigeria ( PHCN ) was formed as a transitional corporation that comprises of the 18 successor companies,( 6 generation companies, 11 distribution companies and 1 transmission company ) created from NEPA .

In 2010, the Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading Plc (NBET) was established as a credible off-taker of electric power from generation companies .By November 2013,the privatization of all generation and 10 distribution companies was completed with the Federal government retaining the ownership of the transmission company was completed in November 2014.

Moving on the poor managing and decision making of the government in Nigeria, Nigeria has 323 large, medium ,small electricity dams which have a total storage capacity of more than 30 \* 109 m3 these dams have been constructed and are located in different states across the country . Due to poor maintenance of these dams by Nigerian government officials in the ministry of power, works and housing, and corporate organizations tasked with the responsibility of maintaining these dams as they have been overlooked, Most of the 323 dams in Nigeria are no longer functioning .Members of Staff of these various dams were withheld their salaries by the government which led to multiple strikes, a nonchalant attitude towards performing their responsibilities at work . The withholding of salaries was as a result of corruption in the government which caused the inability to pay its staff. As these dams are no longer functioning , over 60 % of Nigerians do not have access to a proper electricity supply .

As a result of poor electricity supply, the Nigerian economy faces challenges such as ; reduced income for the government as citizens no longer pay electricity bills as they believe they do not enjoy the electricity so why pay ? The economy as a result is loosing a major source of income and is one of the reasons Nigeria has faced recession in recent years .This problem can be solved by investing more in the electricity sector of the country which will allow more sources of electricity of be created for the country as soon as possible . The dams which are not currently in use can be brought back to action with repairs to the equipment , tools and machines . Dams should also be regularly examined and inspected by the appropriate professionals .

Government also suffers reduced income because of the poor electricity supply as many businesses cannot be properly run or function in a country without a proper supply of electricity in the country. Food Storage businesses, Factories , Hotels and many more cannot work properly while using the electricity provided by the government meaning they therefore have to use expensive options such as generators or solar panels to provide electricity for themselves . As a result , a lot of people with dreams to operate in that field of business would not be able to leading to less tax received by the government cause these companies cannot start up . This problem can be eradicated through investment in the electricity sector so as to be able to provide constant electricity for businesses in the country .

As these many businesses that require constant supply of electricity cannot start up properly, there is an increase in the number of unemployed citizens in the country on a daily basis . One of the solutions to this unemployment is to improve the electricity in the country so the government itself alongside individuals can start factories, hotels and other organizations which will provide employment for citizens.

Individuals in Nigeria suffer a lot from poor electricity supply .There have been so many instances where buildings are getting burnt down and the fire departments cannot properly perform their responsibilities due to the lack of water which electricity provides . Many individuals have lost their lives an property indirectly to the poor supply of electricity in Nigeria. The Ministry of works which is responsible for electricity supply in Nigeria alongside organizations such as NEPA should act immediately on these matters by making sure all fire departments have constant electricity so as to be able to perform their responsibilities properly for the good of the Country .

Hospitals are also not able to perform their responsibilities properly because many a time there is poor supply of electricity . As there is a poor supply of electricity, they are not able to perform advanced medical services to patients who require them because the equipment cannot function without constant supply of electricity. This problem can be solved through providing constant electricity across the country.

Individuals are also at a great disadvantage of the poor supply of electricity in Nigeria.