DOING BUSINESS IN NIGERIA: IMPLICATIONS FOR AFRICA'S INDUSTRIALIZATION

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Abstract:

Evidence has shown that no continent can develop without being industrialized and such industrialization must be seen as emanating from the individual Nations that make up the continent. Africa as a continent has continued to lag behind in industrialization mainly because most of the countries that make it up are still not measuring up in the indices of global competitiveness, especially the ease of doing business index published by the World Bank. Nigeria, the focus of the study, usually described as one of the largest economies in Africa, still has many hurdles preventing it from satisfying most indicators of the ease of doing business index. This study was informed by the need to investigate the specific factors militating against the ease of doing business in Nigeria comparing them with those of select leading nations. Findings reveal that procedures for starting a business, getting electricity, registering property, and paying taxes were the most problematic areas encountered by Nigeria's small and medium scale businesses. It was, therefore, recommended that procedures and requirements towards reaching the mentioned indices in the ease of doing business should be made more easily accessible and multiple taxations made impossible through more stringent laws.

Keywords: Industrialization, Ease of doing business.

Introduction:

Industrialization in Nigeria and Africa as a whole for the past two decades has been discouraging and profoundly appalling resulting from the poor industrial base existing in Sub-Saharan Africa and its environs. Most countries in Africa continue to have a very poorly developed industrial base without the structural changes and diversification experienced by the developed countries of the world. The magnitude of the industrial crisis in Africa is nothing to write home about and industrialization can be said to be the bane of economic development. Despite the diverse policies put in place by various countries in Africa, a viable, efficient and dynamic industrial sector is yet to be visible. There is still a low level of industrial development and high level of imports of basic consumer goods. Therefore, industrialization in Africa is still at the infant stage when compared with other economies of the world.

Nigeria's economic growth has been largely non-inclusive; and as the Federal Government Economic Growth and Recovery Plan (2017) puts it: "decades of consumption and high oil price-driven growth led to an economy with a positive but jobless growth trajectory". This is evidenced by the poor rankings of Nigeria and some other African countries especially the Sub-Saharan African (SSA) states on the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) index designed by the

World Bank Group for measuring certain parameters captioned “Doing Business Index”. Doing Business uses eleven indicators set to measure aspects of business regulations that matter for entrepreneurship. Better performance in Doing Business is associated with meeting the eleven requirements of the index to an appreciable extent and this encourages industrial development and growth with lower levels of unemployment and poverty. Owing to these developments, more reformed industrialization strategies should become a critical part in the attempts to achieve more rapid and self-reliant development in Africa. In view of the foregoing, this paper looks at the ease of doing business in Nigeria and its implications for Africa’s industrialization.

Ease of Doing Business in Nigeria:

The World Bank Group designed certain parameters as benchmarks for measuring performances often captioned ‘Doing Business Index’. The EoDB averages country rankings across the eleven sub-indices covered in the yearly reports which in 2017 for instance, ranked economies from 1-190. This Doing Business captures several important dimensions of the regulatory environment as it applies to both local and foreign firms. It provides quantitative indicators on the regulations for starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity and registering property. Others are protecting minority investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts and resolving insolvency, World Bank EoDB Index (2018). Doing business encourages economies to compete towards more efficient regulation, offers measurable benchmarks for reform, and serves as a resource for academics, journalists, private sector researchers and others interested in the business climate of each economy.

Nigeria is currently faced with dwindling oil revenues, devaluations of the naira and a slow GDP growth rate etc. These make it inevitable to revisit the Nigerian investment climate. Indeed, there are a myriad of factors impeding the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) in Nigeria. These factors include power outages, paucity of funds, labour regulations, general insecurity, Tax Rates, decayed infrastructure, bribery and corruption, government bureaucracy, poor access to finance and political instability, (Serbia, 2004). In view of the above challenges, the National Economic Council (NEC) proposed seventy-one policy reforms anchored on reviving the economy. The Federal Government, also in an attempt to improve the poor performance in the World Bank EoDB Index, established a committee known as the Presidential Committee on Enabling Business Environment, saddled with the responsibility of devising a means of simplifying the process of establishing and sustaining businesses in Nigeria. The government of Nigeria has also initiated various steps on the ten major problems as enumerated by the World Bank (2005) to improve the business environment but all efforts made so far have proved abortive.

Table 1: Indices for Measuring EoDB Globally according to World Bank (2005)

Indicator Set	What is measured
Starting a business	Procedures, time, cost and paid in minimum capital to start a limited Liability Company.
Dealing with construction permits	Procedure, time and cost to complete all formalities to build a warehouse and the quality control and safety mechanisms in the construction permit system.

Getting electricity	Procedure, time and cost to get connected to the electricity grid, the reliability of electricity supply and transparency of tariffs.
Registering property	Procedure, time and cost to transfer a property and quality of the land administration system.
Getting Credit	Movable collateral laws and credit information systems.
Protecting minority investors	Minority Shareholder's rights in relation to transactions and corporate governance.
Paying Taxes	Payments, time, total tax, and contribution rate for a firm to comply with all tax regulations as well as post-filing processes.
Trading across borders	Time and cost to export the product at comparative advantage.
Enforcing contracts	Time and cost to resolve a commercial dispute and the quality of judicial processes.
Resolving insolvency	Time, cost, outcome and recovery rate for a financial insolvency and the strength of legal trans work for insolvency.
Labour Market Regulation	Flexibility in employment regulations and aspects of job quality.

Source: World Bank, 2005, Doing Business data,

Table 1 shows the factors utilized in defining Global Competitiveness with regard to the Ease of Doing Business. The global competitiveness of a country is the ability to create value and thus increase national wealth by managing assets and processes, attractiveness and aggressiveness, globalism and proximity and by integrating these relationships into an economic and social model (Doing Business Data, 2005). Therefore, the survival strategy of each country depends on her ability to efficiently and effectively comprehend the nitty-gritty of these indicators and their measures.

Table 2: Sub-Sahara African (SSA) Countries' Rankings on the 2018 Ease of Doing Business.

Countries	Rank	Starting a Business Distance to Frontier
Mauritius	25	77.54
Rwanda	41	73.40
Kenya	80	65.15
Botswana	81	64.94
South Africa	82	64.89
Zambia	85	64.50
Seychelles	95	64.41
Lesotho	104	60.42
Namibia	106	59.94
Malawi	110	58.94
Swaziland	112	58.94
Ghana	120	57.24
Uganda	122	58.94

Cape Verde	127	56.24
Tanzania	137	54.04
Mozambique	138	54.04
Cote d'voire	139	53.71
Senegal	140	53.06
Mali	143	52.92
Niger	144	52.34
Nigeria	145	52.03
Gambia	146	51.92
Burkina Faso	148	51.54
Mauritania	150	50.88
Benin	151	50.47
Guinea	153	49.80
Togo	156	48.88
Comoros	158	48.52
Zimbabwe	159	48.47
Sierra Leone	160	48.18
Ethiopia	161	47.77
Madagascar	162	47.23
Cameroun	163	47.23
Burundi	164	46.92
Gabon	167	46.19
Sao Tome & Principe	169	44.84
Sudan	170	44.84
Liberia	172	43.55
Equatorial Guinea	173	41.66
Angola	175	41.49
Guinea-Bissau	176	41.45
Congo Republic	179	39.57
Chad	180	38.30
Congo. Dem. Rep.	182	37.65
Central Africa Republic	184	34.86
South Sudan	187	32.86
Eritrea	189	22.87
Somalia	190	19.98
Regional Average	142	50.43

Source: Doing Business Data (2005)

Economies are ranked on their ease of doing business, from 1–190. The rankings are determined by sorting the aggregate distance to frontier scores on ten (10) factors, each consisting of several indicators, giving equal weight to each factor. The Distance to Frontier (DTF) measure shows the distance of each economy to the “frontier,” which represents the best performance observed on each of the indicators across all economies in the Doing Business sample since 2005. An economy’s distance to frontier is placed on a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 represents the lowest performance and 100 represent the frontier. Nigeria was ranked 145 in the ease of starting a business, 172 in getting electricity: 179 in registering property. These rankings were anchored on the World Bank Index rating which reveals that Nigeria is far behind practically in all indicators of performance enumerated above. That is why

businesses/entrepreneurs have not been thriving in Nigeria. It was observed that the most problematic indicators as far as Doing Business in Nigeria is concerned are: starting a business, getting electricity, registering property, and paying taxes. From our observations in conjunction with Table 2, it is explicitly clear that Nigeria is far behind. Her position is appalling and is nothing to write home about.

Table 3a: Rankings on Doing Business Factors: Sub-Sahara Africa

Doing Business Topics	Ranks	Distance to Frontier Scores
Starting a business	125	76.82
Dealing with construction permits	129	56.91
Getting Electricity	148	45.91
Registering property	131	51.71
Getting Credit	115	40.73
Protecting minority investors	126	43.72
Paying Taxes	129	57.49
Trading across borders	137	52.56
Enforcing contracts	128	48.14
Resolving insolvency	125	30.28

Source: Doing Business Data Base (2017)

From Table 3a, it is clear that Sub-Sahara Africa as a whole is lagging behind in comparison to other economies of the world in each of the EoDB sub-indices. It is imperative therefore to take into consideration the successes in EoDB reform in the MINT countries (Mexico, Indonesia, Nigeria and Turkey). Since the largest African economies (Nigeria, South Africa, Angola, Algeria, Egypt and Morocco) are still lagging behind globally, it becomes crucial to borrow a leaf from the developed countries of the world.

Table 3b: Rankings on Doing Business Factors: Nigeria

Doing Business Topics	Ranks	Distance to Frontier Scores
Starting a business	130	80.80
Dealing with construction permits	147	58.81
Getting Electricity	172	34.68
Registering property	14	87.26
Getting Credit	77	55.00
Protecting minority investors	10	75.00
Paying Taxes	28	85.18
Trading across borders	22	96.97
Enforcing contracts	8	75.71
Resolving insolvency	6	85.94

Source: Doing Business Data Base (2018)

As shown in Table 3b, Nigeria's performance in some of the factors/indices is encouraging as it is above the rankings for the SSA region. This according to the World Bank EoDB data is based on reforms making it easier to do business. According to the World Bank EoDB, reforms making it easier to do business in Nigeria are in the areas of: starting a business, dealing with construction permits, registering property, getting credit, and paying taxes. This is evidenced in the rankings in these areas that are better than the average for the SSA region.

Challenges Affecting Doing Business in Nigeria:

- Starting a business in Nigeria can be cumbersome requiring two times as many procedures and three times the amount of time as in developed economies of the world.
- Obtaining construction permits in Nigeria involves manual submission of several documents, higher fees and longer procedures than in most countries.
- Registering property in Nigeria requires two times the cost and number of procedures and three times the amount of time as in leading countries.
- The strength to legal rights to credit in Nigeria is admirable, the country's collateral registry is being under-utilized and credit Bureau Coverage is below average.
- Power outages are the major obstacle to running businesses smoothly in Nigeria as most industries especially the ones at the infant stage cannot really afford the cost of daily diesel for the efficient running of their businesses.
- Tax payment and policies are very cumbersome in Nigeria. It is essential to review tax policies to make the procedure less cumbersome.

Ease of Doing Business in Nigeria: A Way Forward in Conjunction with Practices Adopted by Mexico, Indonesia, Nigeria and Turkey (MINT Countries).

Nigeria globally known as the giant of Africa is characterized by a paucity of electricity, deplorable infrastructure, fluctuating/dwindling oil revenues, devaluations of the naira, a slow GDP growth rate and other numerous factors (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2017). In the light of the above, the National Economic Council (NEC) retreat held recently proposed 71 policy reforms which aim at reviving the Nigerian Economy. The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment was assigned the responsibility of developing a matrix of measures to be undertaken by the Federal and State Governments to improve Nigeria's ranking on the World Bank EoDB Index. All these are yet to produce the desired results thereby calling for a look at the successes in the EoDB reforms in other MINT Countries (Mexico, Indonesia and Turkey) in comparison with the processes in Nigeria. The comparison will be anchored on some of the indicators of the ease of doing business index, with the sole objective of proposing similar measures which may be adopted in Nigeria. The selected indicators include: Ease of registering a business; simplifying the mode of paying taxes; enforcing contracts; registering property and access to electricity.

Policy reforms of the Mint Countries and other countries of the world ranked consistently in the top twenty (20) percentile of the index have relied on the core areas such as the adoption of technology-based platforms in minimizing lengthy administrative procedures and on providing more financial incentives. This has contributed tremendously towards enhancing the ease of doing business in the aforementioned countries and its adoption would be of great benefit to Nigeria. Mexico invented an online One Stop Shop which allows business name availability searches to be executed in minutes. This method has made it possible for all company registration documents to be submitted via a single portal complete with an online notary service. With this format, the registration process can be completed in two to three days. Utilizing the same procedure, the thirteen-step method involved in registering a business in Indonesia, which formally exhausted 47 days, was cut down to seven (7) procedures to span ten days. In addition to leveraging on available technology, Indonesia also empowered the Ministry of Law and Rights to issue incorporation certificates.

Indonesia and Mexico recorded tremendous improvements in tax revenue with the introduction of a mandatory electronic filing and payment system, an approach which has made paying taxes

less burdensome. Both countries also recorded considerable development with respect to registration of property. Indonesia eased the processes required for the transfer of property by implementing strict time limits for procedures at the land registry. Mexico's system involved reducing the cost of registering property via the introduction of a revised fee schedule. Legislative reforms are meant to strengthen contract enforcement in Mexico which resulted in the creation of small courts to purposely cater for such contractual matters that require expedient settlements. Turkey, on the other hand, engages in a legislative reform of its civil procedure law and introduced a simplified electronic process to cut down filing and processing times.

Registering a Business in Nigeria is conducted through the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC). The commission has offices in practically all the states in Nigeria. The headquarters which offers expedient services is situated in Abuja, the capital of Nigeria. Nigeria is currently rated 179 out of the 190 countries rated globally with respect to the 'Ease of Doing/Registering a Business on the World Bank EoDB Index (2018). The incorporation process is heavily dependent on manual processes which are prone to errors and delays.

The Ease of Paying Taxes:

Nigeria is currently ranked 171 out of 190 countries globally with respect to the 'Ease of Paying Taxes' on the World Bank EoDB Index. Filing of business tax is a challenge in Nigeria. As a result, tax revenue collection is significantly lower compared to other countries with more simplified procedures for tax collection. This system was accompanied by the e-tax system Pay Solution introduced in 2015. In an effort to further simplify the tax payment process and eliminate the hurdles associated with issuing the Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC), the FIRS made an announcement that the method of issuing TCCS will be reviewed in an effort to abridge the system and make it less cumbersome. The fact remains that there have been teething problems hindering the full utilization of the e-tax pay solution, redefining the existing tax payment system via a combination of effective management and public enlightenment. In order to achieve this, there is the need for a specialized unit within the FIRS to promote public awareness and education on the use of the available systems that have been in place to ease tax payment.

The Ease of Enforcing Contracts:

Nigeria is ranked 96 out of the 190 countries globally with respect to the "Ease of Enforcing contracts" on the World Bank Ease of Doing Business Index (World Bank EoDB Rankings (2018). The development of an efficient contract enforcement structure in conjunction with a sturdy judiciary is a key indicator related to jurisdiction that has experienced economic and sustained growth. Nigeria like many other African countries has weak institutions and legislations which affects the operations of the judicial system, causing undue delays in enforcing contracts in Nigeria. Investors, especially foreign ones, scan for jurisdictions that specify the procedures for safeguarding the sanctity of the contracts and provide speedy recourse in case of any flaws. To sustain the interest and confidence of foreign investors in the Nigerian economy, the government entered into bilateral Investments Promotion and Protection Agreements (IPPAs) with 26 countries: France, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Romania, Switzerland, Spain and South-Africa, among others, which desire to do business in Nigeria (Okala, 2014). To surmount the lapses accruing from weak institutions and legislations, the existing legislations need to be reviewed and appropriate measures taken to ensure that credibility and efficiency of the judicial processes are maintained. In other MINT Countries, contract enforcement has been transformed via the introduction of electronic filing systems and

legislative reforms that dwelt on streamlining the process and fixing loopholes that are easily exploited in the course of enforcing legally binding contracts. The e-filing system was introduced in Nigerian Courts (High Courts and Courts of Appeal) but was largely under-utilized as a result of operational challenges.

The Ease of Registering Property:

Nigeria is rated 179 out of the 190 countries ranked globally with respect to the “Ease of Registering Property” on the World Bank EoDB Index. The rigorous procedures involved in registering property in Nigeria are really an imbroglio resulting from a weak institutional framework, cumbersome regulatory structures and outdated laws. The recent institutional structure is fraught with incessant delays, bureaucratic obstacles, administrative malpractices and very huge costs. Although recently some states have taken steps to unclog the process and cut associated costs, there is still a long way to go with respect to easing the overall process. In addressing the bottlenecks as regards registering property in Nigeria, it becomes imperative to concentrate on revising the existing property legislations, reducing associated costs and strengthening the Land Registries.

Ease of Access to Electricity:

Nigeria is currently ranked 172 out of 190 countries rated globally with respect to the “Ease of Access to Electricity” on the World Bank EoDB Index (2016). It is very obvious that access to and constant supply of electricity are the key ingredients for business growth and development. Nigeria’s reliance on power generators has been plagued by several constraints ranging from insufficiency of gas, inadequacy of the transmission infrastructure as well as liquidity issues in the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (Media Newsletter, 2016). It is high time the Federal Government realized that the solution lies with utilizing off-grid solutions in the short and medium terms while significantly reducing the sole reliance on the grid. There are ample opportunities for State Governments to develop micro grids through renewable energy. As renewable energy sources vary in diverse locations, it becomes necessary for the State Governments to initiate State-owned power projects thereby maximizing the renewable energy sources most readily available in each State. Where renewable energy micro grids are provided or installed, the load on the main grid can be reduced and more resources will be channelled towards rehabilitating and expanding the existing power infrastructure.

Industrialization in Nigeria and Africa:

Rapid industrialization has been viewed as fundamental to modern economic growth and development of any country. The level of industrial performance reflects the ability of any economy to utilize its resources, its level of technological and managerial development to enhance the standard of living of its citizens. The term “industrialization” originated from the industrial revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries in Europe. Industrialization describes an increase of the share of manufacturing in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and in the occupations of the economically active population. It could also be used to explain the development of economic activity in a relatively large industry. Industrialization in Africa and Nigeria is bedevilled by paucity of data, transportation facilities, power outages, finance etc. Relentless efforts to industrialize the country began after independence in 1960 with the implementation of four national development plans, a prospective fifth development plan and several other economic policies like the indigenization and structural adjustment policies, the vision 20:2020 among others, which aim at strengthening the Nigerian manufacturing sector. These economic policies were designed to address problems relating to industrialization as they came up, such that different policies were passed at different times to address issues of the time

(Muio, Okeke & Okpala, 2008). Achievements in the manufacturing sub sector have been marginal and very unsatisfactory. Manufacturing which contributed 10.2 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product GDP by 1981 could only account for less than 4 per cent of the GDP in 2003, rising to 6.6 per cent in 2010 and to 9.5 per cent in 2015 (CBN-ARSA, 2015). The present manufacturing GDP ratio in Nigeria of 9.5 per cent is below the 10 per cent average manufacturing GDP ratio for Africa. Industrialization in Nigeria is affected by the dearth of infrastructure and inadequate power supply. This situation has constrained entrepreneurship in distributive trade. Nkamnebe and Okeke captured this thus: *One direct consequence of all these on Nigeria's entrepreneurial development is the emergence of a mainly periodic/incremental and continuous/incremental entrepreneurship. This class of entrepreneurs is most active and fulfilled with mere distributive activities. At best, they serve as mere outposts distributive for foreign consumer goods* (2006:358). The problems of the manufacturing sector can rightly be attributed to the unconducive business environment in Nigeria and Africa as evidenced by the ease of doing business (EoDB) index released yearly by the World Bank Group. This Doing Business captures several important dimensions of the regulatory environment as it applies to both local and international firms. It provides quantitative indicators on regulations for starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, protecting minority investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts and resolving insolvency. According to the World Bank EoDB report (2018), Sub-Saharan Africa has the widest variations in performance among the areas measured by *Doing Business*, with Mauritius standing at 25 in the ranking and Somalia at 190. Nigeria ranks 145 while South Africa is ranked 82 hence the report added that although good regulatory practices can be found around the world, they are mostly common in the OECD high income economies and the economies of (Europe and) Central Asia. This explains the low level of industrialization in Nigeria and Africa. Without a strong industrial base to create jobs and add value to raw materials, African countries are bound to remain shackled by joblessness and poverty.

Table 4a: Manufacturing in Nigeria Vs Benchmark Countries

Country	Manufacturing Contribution to GDP (%) (2005)	Manufacturing Value Added Per Capita1 (\$) (2005)	Manufacturing Export Per Capita1 (\$) (2005)	Share of Man. Value Added in GDP1 (%) (2005)	Share of Man. Export in Total Export1 (%) (2005)	Gross Domestic Product at Current Prices (\$ 'million) (2007)	GDP Per Capita(\$)(2008)
China	33.5	495.9	556	34.1	95.1	3,400,351	5,300
Thailand	34.8	882.2	1498	36.1	87.4	245,351	8,000
Brazil	20.4	748.7	463	20.4	72.8	1,314,199	9,700
Malaysia	29.8	1,430.3	4,753	32.2	85.5	186,720	7,027
South Africa	18.6	575.9	703	16.3	70.2	283,008	10,600
Nigeria	5	19.1	4	4.1	2.5	173,184	2,200

Source: Nigeria Vision 20: 2020 Economic Transformation Blueprint October 2009

Another metric/factor used to assess industrialization is manufacturing value added MVA; and Table 4b shows the share in World MVA for Africa and other regions of the World.

Table 4b: Estimated growth rates of world manufacturing output as at Quarter 1, 2017.

	Share in world MVA (2010)
World	100
Industrialized Economies	63.3
North America	20.6
Europe	24.1
East Asia	15.3
Emerging and EIE (by development group)	36.7
China	19.8
Emerging Industrial Economies	14.7
Other Developing Economies	2.0
Developing and EIE (by Region)	36.7
Africa	1.1
Asia & Pacific	26.3
Latin America	6.5
Others	2.8

Source: UNIDO 2017: *World Manufacturing Production Statistics for Quarter 1, 2017*.

Countries with high share of world MVA account for higher proportion of trade in export of manufactures and have high standards of living. This group of countries, mostly among the OECD countries, accounts for a greater percentage of manufacturing export goods.

In a study on the factors that drive successful industrialization, Martorano, Sanfilippo and Haraguchi (2017), analyze the drivers of successful industrialization in developing countries. They considered two different periods, 1970-1990 and 1991-2014, which are likely to be affected by different patterns of industrialization due to major political, technological and organizational changes. They developed a simple methodology to identify a small group of countries for each period, which have exhibited a pattern of industrialization that is not only remarkable in absolute terms, but also sustained (i.e. industrialization that occurs over a long period of time). Based on this classification, their empirical analysis reveals that successful industrialization is driven by a combination of factors, including the country's initial economic conditions, its factor endowments as well as other characteristics, such as demographic structure and geography. The study also shows that other variables that policy makers can control play a crucial role. This includes, among others, the promotion of investments in capital (both public and privately funded) and education; the management of trade and capital openness; financial sector development and the promotion of both macroeconomic and institutional stability. The implication of this is that virtually all the factors identified as listed border on Ease of Doing Business and addressing the factors and scaling up the rankings will improve the business environment and made more conducive for the operators.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

Better performance in *Doing Business* is associated with lower levels of unemployment and poverty which comes through manufacturing and value-added industrialization. The EoDB in Nigeria is not high as the environment is fraught with bad eggs that derive joy from violating laid down procedures guiding the successful execution of beautiful plans to enhance the economic growth and development of business activities in Nigeria. The following recommendations are made in view of the work done:

- Government needs to pursue policies favourable to industrialization such as tax holidays; excise duty and reduction of tariff protection.
- Loans/funds should be made easily accessible to individuals and corporate organizations. Therefore, to make the system function effectively and efficiently, adequate funds will be required for infrastructure, aggressive training and enlightenment programmes.
- Infrastructures such as electricity, water, etc should be adequately provided to enhance business activities in Nigeria in particular and Africa at large.
- Strong tracking or monitoring procedures to measure Progress and achieve success.
- Reduction of procedures for getting electricity, paying taxes, registering property and obtaining construction Permits. Effective and efficient registration of property involves aggressively addressing the bureaucratic obstacles that cause undue delays in registering property in Nigeria by streamlining the title perfection process.
- Procedures and requirements toward reaching the factors amenities in the ease of doing business should be made more easily accessible and multiple taxations made impossible through more stringent laws.
- Nigeria should embark on reforms targeted at restructuring the ten indicator set as enumerated in the Ease of Doing Business Index developed by World Bank.
- To solve this problem of registering business, the commission in charge should expand the scope of its online registration portal to cover all incorporation services. This approach has proved to be more efficient and helps to minimize rigorous administrative processes at the commission. For ease of access, the centre can adopt an online platform which would exclusively offer expedited registration services and specific registration needs as an added incentive. With a fully functional online system, the Corporate Affairs Commission can build on expanding its service out-reaches in each state through the accredited third party agents.
- Government needs to aggressively promote and focus on implementing policies that will attract investment in various off-grid solutions, embedded generation and micro grids in order to improve access to electricity.
- As Nigeria seeks to improve the mode of tax collection, it is essential to review tax policies to make the procedure less cumbersome, expand the existing tax incentives and switch to a fully electronic system for registering and paying taxes. The integrated Tax System brought to the limelight by the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) in 2013 would be a step in the right direction. This entails aggressively addressing the bureaucratic obstacles that cause undue delays in registering property in Nigeria by streamlining the title perfection process.

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