

CONTENT AND LEXICAL ANALYSIS OF EDITORIALS OF TELL MAGAZINE

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ABSTRACT

The general belief is that language users usually adopt certain forms and features from their linguistic repertoire that best serve their communication purposes. This study investigates the choice of lexical items in selected editorial comments of TELL magazine which are stylistically significant for the interpretation of meaning and, for their functional significance in ensuring effective projection of the thematic preoccupation. The analysis was done using the content and lexical analysis model by Henrique Freitas and Jean Moscarola. The technique is an ideal one for the objective, systematic and quantitative analysis of a written text for the purpose of lexicon selection and, determining their frequency of occurrence. In this study, a careful analysis and quantification of the lexical choices shows that the diction which were employed, though technical and highly specialized, were unambiguous and very effective in communicating the intended message.

Keywords: Editorial, Content Analysis, TELL Magazine.

INTRODUCTION

In respect to the domain of Mass communication, the role of language in describing and explaining texts, whether spoken or written cannot be underrated because effective communication is based on the ability of language users to use it appropriately and effectively. Appropriateness here means making the right choices based on the subject matter. As Kumuyi&Kumuyi opine, “words are essential in language as they influence the outcome of whatever we say or write”. The implication therefore is that the diction which a writer employs is a major determining factor for the interpretation of the intended message. Owolabi(2014) further states that diction, which he defines as “choice of words” is determined by the nature of the discourse, the text and situation and, are usually and carefully selected to serve a particular purpose or for specific situations.

The media engender communication which is the exchange of information as the transmission of meaning is the very essence of a social systems (of a community) (Okoroafor,2002).The editorial section of the newspaper or magazine is dedicated to achieving this role. Duyilemi (2005) defines the editorial as “the opinion of the newspaper on any topic. It is a comment or an argument in support of a particular policy, an action or an idea”. As a special text type, the editorial has its own stylistic characteristics because the writers must employ the appropriate language and style to express the intention of the newspaper on well-researched issues. According to Kumuyi (2017), it is important that an editorial is not considered in terms of its thematic preoccupation only but more so, on the special linguistic choices made by the writer that contribute to the overall significance of the text. Consequently, the study sets out to investigate such lexical items that convey the main meaning of the text in their denotation of concepts such as ideas, object, actions and attributes.

ANALYTICAL MODEL

This study adopts the Content and Lexical Analysis Model for the interpretation and analysis of the data. The model by Henrique Freitas, Jean Moscarola and Milton Jenkins (1998) is one which enables the researcher (particularly in the Social Sciences) to analyze data in a scientific way. It recommends the scientific analysis of data which goes beyond the casual impression of the researcher.

Freitas, Moscarola and Jenkins (1998), quoting Grawitz (1993), define Content Analysis as ‘a research technique for the objective, systematic and quantitative description of communication, having for objective to interpret them’. The focus is usually the elements that contribute to produce the text such as the choice of words, repetitions, composition of sentences etc. The approach, according to them, is an ideal technique for the analysis of document in written text (eg. books, newspapers, magazine, speeches, advertisement etc.), visual images or voice recordings’. The novelty of the model of context analysis consists of substituting the impression (a personal opinion, almost a guess) for a more standardized procedure, quantification, in every case transmitting raw data into data for scientific analysis (Freitas et al 1998). The model comprises seven levels of analysis from which the following four have been selected for this study.

- i. The summary Lexicon: The text is examined to determine prominent words and their frequency of occurrence.
- ii. The Controlled lexicon: The researcher reduces the lexicon to the content words (eg. Noun, verb, adjective and adverb) while ignoring the tool words ie words without major role or meaning (eg preposition, article, conjunction etc.).
- iii. The Selective Lexicon: At this stage, the common characteristic of the reduced lexicon are examined. It involves grouping. For instance, specialized words like registers are identified and classified.
- iv. Quantification of Text: This involves calculating the frequency of occurrence of certain words with a view to determine the most prominent feature in a text.

METHODOLOGY

The data comprise two (2) samples of editorials of *TELL* magazine which were purposely selected to enable the researcher focus on particular characteristics features and, to ensure that the analysis covers issues that are contemporary in nature. The samples which were coded A&B were subjected to a careful study and analysis using the Content and Lexical Analysis Model. The discursive approach was used to interpret and relate the identified lexical items to their contexts in order to draw out their significance to the intended message. Frequency tables were used to account for the re-occurring lexical items and frequently used open class words such as nouns, verbs, adjectives while excluding the close ones.

Table 1: The Editorials and their Codes

Code	Title	Date
Sample A	Boko Haram: Let the Real Statesmen Show up!	May 19, 2014.

Sample B	Nigeria: Time for Business Unusual	November 9, 2015.
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DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The Use of registers

Writers in their choice of diction, usually draw from a large range of registers which goes a long way in highlighting the thematic pre-occupation of their texts. The choice of diction can be simple as well as technical, as long as it is appropriate to the context of use. The context plays a very fundamental role in determining the meaning of a text because lexical choices become meaningful when we apply the knowledge of the context in which the text is produced.

Sample A is characterized by insecurity-related words that capture the state of insecurity as occasioned by the Boko Haram insurgency in the northern part of Nigeria since 2009 when it first reared its ugly head. The editorial traces the trend of the sect's nefarious activities by highlighting some of the calamitous situations that shook the nation to its foundation, as well as federal government's seemingly helplessness and incompetence in the face of these tragedies, which have been drawing much ire and impatience from Nigerians.

Given the various circumstances that surround the issue of insurgency in the country such as the fact that most Nigerians see it as President Jonathan's problem, and the inability of Northern elders and leaders to openly condemn the insurgents and their murderous exploits but rather resort to antagonistic behaviour which borders on blackmail, the editorial, seriously, questions their moral justification. It declares them culpable and enjoins them to be true 'statesmen'. It also called for concerted efforts by all Nigerians to ensure that Boko Haram is defeated.

Register associated with war and crises are very prevalent in the editorial. In fact, the list is endless. Such words and phrases include: 'insurgency', 'attacks', 'destruction', 'bombs', 'protests', 'killed', 'kidnapped', 'insurgent', 'state of insecurity', 'religious war', 'burning', 'troubled region', 'fire', 'trappings of gun powder', 'menace', 'debacle', 'ceasefire', 'arms', 'up in arms', 'militancy', 'killings', 'under siege', 'guerrilla wars', 'murderous exploits', 'religious fundamentalists', 'material loss', 'religious fanatics', 'deadly hits', 'raping', 'state of emergency'.

The expressions above evoke the picture of the violence, horror and danger associated with the menace of Boko Haram. They are very apt in depicting the mood of the country (particularly the most affected northern part) as far as security is concerned. In addition, there are expressions that show recurrent crises: 'unrelenting Boko Haram insurgency', 'waxing stronger', 'staging more successful and deadly hits' dragging for too long', 'grieving parents', 'which has been killing in hundreds', 'raping underage women', 'the country is fighting'.

In the last part of the piece, there is a call for the northern leaders and all true statesmen to do a serious soul searching and rally round the government to combat the menace of Boko Haram rather than fighting political war or passing the bulk and expressing anger which is misdirected and misplaced. Hence, the following phrases and expression are used: 'urgent soul searching', 'rally round the government', 'intense patriotism', 'collective survival', 'concerted efforts' and 'restore sanity to polity'.

Sample B espouses the gains of Public-Private Partnership Policy (PPP). It emphasizes the need for Nigeria to fully adopt the policy in order to rescue the dwindling economy of the country. It opines that things needed to be done differently and recommends a more effective collaboration of the government with the private sector to tackle the nation's infrastructure deficit. The editorial

highlights the progress already recorded due to partial adoption of this policy-particularly in the aviation and power sectors.

The pervasive linguistic items that are associated with economy are: 'economy', 'resources', 'revenue', 'infrastructural', 'facilities', 'private sector', 'policy makers', 'cost', 'regulatory and monitoring institutions', 'planning', 'restructuring', 'public service', 'capital project', 'supply chain', 'money', 'privatization', 'infrastructure', 'assets', 'public sector', 'economic team', 'capital', 'investors', 'foreign exchange'. In addition, the use of certain words that are associated with specific sector of the economy is obvious. For instance, the economy of Nigeria cannot be discussed without recourse to the oil and gas sector which is considered the country's economic main-stay. Phrases like 'price of crude', 'foreign exchange earners' 'public sector', are used to describe the economic base plan of the country. Others like 'privatization', 'expertise', 'investors', 'private sector' are significant in the sense that they serve as the panacea for addressing the socio-economic challenges of the country.

Lexical Repetition

Lexical repetition involves the use of a lexical item or synonyms more than once in a text. Often, a language user consciously repeats lexical items to make his message run through the text. This strengthens cohesion and also concentrates the semantic import of lexical choices. The use of this device helps to embed the message being conveyed more deeply in the mind of the reader or listener. Editorial writers usually employ repetition for the purpose of laying emphasis on their views and opinions, and to also imprint the effect and gravity of the message on the minds of the readers.

The following tables show the frequency of occurrence of lexical items as used in the editorials in the categories of nouns, adjectives and verbs. Only words occurring more than once are considered. The words extracted are all content words. Some of the words that have similar meaning but different form are counted as one lexical item eg. 'Nigeria/Nigerians', 'Insurgents/Insurgency' etc.

Table 2: Frequency of occurrence of repeated lexical items in Sample A

Lexical Items	Number of occurrence
Boko Haram	10
Insurgency/insurgents	12
North	5
Nigeria	5
President	11
Leaders	12
Elders	4
Al-Qaeda	2
Militants	2
South-South	2
Killed	4
Attacks	2
National cake	2

War	6
Killings	2
Ship	3
Amnesty	3
Siege	2
Region	5
Government	7
Religious	6
Nation	5
State	8
Political	10
Rally	2
Fire	2
Groups	4
Women	2
Politically	2
Opposition	2
Roof	2
People	3
Appear	4
Girls	3
Military	2
Hurled	2
Armed forces	3
TOTAL	167

The repeated use of ‘Boko Haram’, ‘insurgency/insurgents’, ‘war’, ‘killed’, ‘killings’ is significant in the sense that the words vividly portray the experience of Nigerians under the scourge of Boko Haram while that of ‘president’, ‘leaders’, ‘elders’, ‘government’, ‘the North’ is to identify those who share the responsibility of tackling the menace and how crucial their positions are.

Table 3: Frequency of repeated lexical items in Sample B

Lexical Items	Number of Occurrence
Economy	5
Malignant	2
Infrastructure	11
Government	33

Nigeria(ans)	17
Corruption	3
Poverty	3
Malaise	2
Public-Private Partnership	10
Programme	2
Buhari	4
President	4
Unemployment	3
Policy	12
Private sector	08
Operation	2
Education	2
Development	3
Public sector	3
Oil	3
Gas	3
Challenges	4
Institution	2
Project	8
Collaboration	2
Change(N)	4
Foreign	3
Exchange	
Facilities	6
Tackle	3
Country	11
Regulatory	4
Arrived	2
Effective	2
Deficit	4

Advantages	2
Particularly	2
Political	4
Refinery	2
Economic	6
Lead/led	2
Health	2
TOTAL	210

The reiteration of words and phrases such as ‘policy’, ‘Public-Private Partnership’, ‘private sector’, ‘project’ and ‘change’ helps to emphasize the proposition – the idea of the benefit of the Public-Private Partnership policy as a kind of policy that can help to revamp the country’s infrastructural deficit which has always been a major sore point of the Nigerian economy. According to Halliday’s (1994) ideational meta-function, language is used to construe experience and it evolves through the act of making meaning from such experiences. In this case, the grammatical choices employed in the editorial help to project the reality of the Nigerian deteriorating economy and how Nigerians deal with it. The editorial uses the word ‘government’ repeatedly to stress the fact that the Nigerian government is the target of the discourse. It opines that government should chart a new course of action by fully embracing the Public-Private Partnership Policy (PPP) to tackle the numerous economic challenges facing Nigeria and Nigerians. The word ‘infrastructure’ also features prominently to emphasize one major area of the economy that is in dire need of revamping.

The reiteration of certain lexical items serves to embed their messages more vividly in the mind of the readers

Occurrence of Open Class Items

In English grammar, open class refers to the category of words- class of words that commonly accept the addition of new words. They usually denote concepts such as objects, actions, attributes and ideas. This category includes nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. Open class normally contains large number words, because of its capacity to accommodate new word. This is worthy of investigation in this study because they account for the contents and meaning of the text. Due to the large size of the editorial samples, the list of the repeated words provided an alternative basis with which to determine the dominant class among the group. This is determined from the number of words that appear in each class rather than the frequency of occurrence of each lexical item. Below is the classification of the open class items in the repeated words.

Table 4: The occurrence of open class items

A	NOUNS	VERBS	ADJECTIVES	ADVERBS
B	Boko Haram, roof, insurgency/insurgents, Nigeria, fire. President, leaders, elders, militants, South-south, Al-Qaeda, national cake, war, attacks killings, ship, amnesty, siege, North, region, government, military, opposition, nation, state, group, women, girls, armed forces	Killed, rally, Affected, Kidnap (ped) Appear, Hurlled	religious, political	–
	infrastructure, economy, government, poverty, Nigeria(ans),corruption, malaise, program, Buhari, president, unemployment, private sector, operation, oil, education, health, gas development, public sector, challenges, institution, change, foreign exchange, deficit, advantages, refinery, country, public-private-partnership, facilities, collaboration, policy, project	tackle, arrived, lead/led	regulatory, effective, political, economic malignant	Particularly
TOTAL	62	9	7	1
%	78.48	11.39	8.86	1.27

Table 4 represents the classification of the open class items in the list of repeated words. The table shows that noun has the highest percentage of 78.48% followed by verb with 11.39%. Adjective follows closely with 8.86% while adverb has the lowest with just 1.27%.

CONCLUSION

This paper has shown that editorial writers do not just use words haphazard, but rather employ specific lexical items in certain manner which serve to fulfil their intention. It has established the fact that Lexical Repetition which is a dominant feature in the editorial under study is very significant in the sense that it helps to emphasize the thematic pre-occupation thereby ensuring a unified discourse. The study has further brought to light the importance of nouns another open class items and, most importantly, the propensity of the use of noun more frequently than other content words.

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APPENDIX A

TELL, May 19, 2014, Page 18

Boko Haram: Let the Real Statesmen show up!

1. There is no doubt that the prevailing times are toh as several cross currents of opposing influences are buffeting Nigeria.
2. The ship of state appears to be drifting and heading for the rocks necessitating urgent intervention by men and institutions of goodwill to prevent the ship from keeling over and ending in a devastating wreck.
3. Prominent among the many tempests afflicting Nigeria's ship of state is the unrelenting Boko Haram insurgency particularly in the northern part of the country.
4. Since it reared its ugly head in 2009, it has claimed several lives, broken many limbs and destroyed property worth billions of naira besides causing emotional, psychological and social trauma for the entire nation, now its larger victim.
5. The first four months of this year have been particularly traumatizing as the bloody group not only threw bombs at public buildings including schools, army and police barracks and worship places, it killed and kidnapped students in their hundreds.
6. Its kidnap of over 200 girls from Government Secondary School, Chibok in Borno State and the Nyanya bombings in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, are however proving to be the huge burden now trying to break the camel's back.
7. Many Nigerians are expectedly not only angry, they are expressing their anger in physical protests and emotional vituperations, much of it directed at the federal government and President Goodluck Jonathan in particular.

8. This, certainly, is expected in a situation where government appears not to be on top of the state of insecurity especially after almost one year of declaring a state of emergency in the three states: Adamawa, Borno and Yobe that have been at the receiving end of much of the group's attacks.
9. Many had thought that with the military getting involved, victory over this evil group would have been achieved.
10. But rather than abating the insurgency has been waxing stronger, with the men of evil staging more successful and deadly hits at the nation's underbelly.
11. And this understandably has drawn much ire and impatience from the people considering the fact that the matter has been dragging for too long.
12. What is worrisome is not the overt expression of anger but that much of it has been misdirected and misplaced.
13. Not a few Nigerians erroneously see the issue as a Jonathan problem, a Peoples Democratic Party challenge or a religious war.
14. Much of the criticism has been directed at Mr. President and the armed forces, the President allegedly for not doing enough as the Commander-in-Chief of the Nigerian Armed Forces; and the armed forces for not showing enough professional competence in handling the war.
15. Many want the President to just wave his magic wand - if he has any - and then cause the destruction of Boko Haram overnight, retrieve the girls in bondage and hand them over to their grieving parents!
16. From the lampooning the President has received so far, and is still receiving, it seems he deliberately set fire on his own roof, then like Nero, the Ancient Roman king, starts fiddling while Nigeria, his roof, continues burning.
17. It is unfortunate that much of the criticism is being hurled from the North, especially from the elders and political leaders in the troubled region, who we dare say have not done much to help the President to crush the insurgents.
18. "Rather than mobilizing their people against the insurgents, and along with some of the governors in the affected states, they have chosen to play to the gallery and engage in deriding the President, his spouse and his party; hurling abuses, politicking and buck-passing just to score cheap political points.
19. Yet when their states are attacked, they, like squirrels, scurry to Abuja to cool off until the heat is over.
20. It is a shame that many of our well-to-do and influential brothers and sisters from the North have relocated to safer havens in Abuja, Kano, Kaduna and Lagos while waiting for the President to quench the fire consuming their people in their homes.
21. We recall that at the onset of this Boko Haram debacle, many of the elders and leaders from the region were justifying the menace, blaming it on the increasing level of poverty in the area and the inequitable sharing of the national cake.
22. Apart from asking for more share of the nation's revenue, they demanded that the affected states be compensated for the attacks and the insurgents be granted amnesty like the Niger Delta militants who were made to surrender their arms and cease fire in exchange for an amnesty.
23. At that point, the critics gave the impression that Boko Haram was somewhat a political tool to get a share of the national cake through the back door.
24. They also rose up in arms against what some of them considered unfair treatment by the federal government through the amnesty programme which gave children from oil-producing areas money and training abroad after they renounced militancy for them, it was another means of squaring up with Jonathan and tormenting his presidency, the first to be led by an indigene of South-south geo-political zone.
25. The northern elders and leaders inadvertently gave credence to this thinking as many of them shied away from condemning the insurgents and their murderous exploits.
26. It was not until the group attacked Ado Bayero. the Emir of Kano, almost killing him and his son; killed Mohammed Shuwa, a civil war veteran in Borno that these leaders began to find their voices.
27. Even then their position has been very antagonistic, bordering on blackmail.

28. They have made statements disparaging the military and accusing them of incompetence, genocide and being less armed than the Boko Haram.
29. They once alleged that soldiers raped their women and killed innocent civilians for which they were prepared to take the government to the World Court?
30. Surprisingly none of these allegations was hurled at the Boko Haram which has been killing in hundreds and raping underage women.
31. Again, they wanted the Boko Haram treated like the Niger Delta militants even when leaders of the group were not ready to dialogue with government and none of the elders and political leaders was willing to interface between the insurgents and the government like the South-south leaders including Jonathan, first as deputy governor in Bayelsa State and later as vice president, did in the case of the militants.
32. Yet it would appear the President has been trying to bend over backwards to appease the North by picking his aides on security matters from the region with the belief that they could help tackle the insurgency.
33. Apart from being well represented on the leadership ladder of the armed forces, the national adviser, the defence minister along with the vice president of the republic are from the region.
34. But it seems the North does not want to help itself in quelling this insurgency in spite of its huge human and material losses.
35. And the political opposition is not helping matters either.
36. It does appear that both the opposition and the northern elite have agreed to put the presidency under a siege believing that doing so will put them at a political advantage come 2015 whereas putting the President under a siege, instigating religious and ethnic sentiments in a multi-religious and multi-ethnic country like Nigeria in order to capture power by all means have all the trappings of a gun powder, and the nation will be the worse for it.
37. This is why we call on all stakeholders to stop the blame game now and join hands with the Jonathan administration to quell the insurgency before it kills the nation.
38. What is happening is that the country is fighting, for the first time in its history, an asymmetrical war that may take a long time to end.
39. Insurgency and guerilla wars when they start do not end soon.
40. Events in Afghanistan, Columbia, Iraq and other places where there are nests of insurgents including religious fundamentalists like the al-Qaeda and other similar organizations indicate it may take decades of concerted efforts by leaders of such countries to bring about peace.
41. As for Nigeria, the BokoHaram cancer is an affliction that took some time to grow.
42. It took its roots from the religious crises of the 1980s that featured the
43. Maitatsine and similar religious fanatics
44. Now it has gone beyond religion because Boko Haram's bombs have killed both Muslims and Christians.
45. And, it is not a creation of Jonathan or President UmaruYar'Adua, before him.
46. Both leaders inherited the menace, though their management of it remains a matter for another discourse.
47. The truth is that it is difficult to absolve the northern elite and political leaders many of who, to start with, created the poverty situation by giving at best mere token to their people and thereafter had leveraged on it to achieve their political ambition.
48. Bola Dada, former ambassador, had in an interview with The PUNCH newspaper said this much, revealing how some northern leaders had from the 1960s nurtured this kind of Frankenstein monster in the guise of championing a religious cause.
49. The former diplomat also disclosed how a former governor of Zamfara State was among those who underwent indoctrination in one of the training camps of Osama bin Laden (the late al-Qaeda leader) in Sudan then.
50. Who knows how many of them are in positions of authority today and how far they can go to wreck the state.

51. That is why leaders in the North and all true statesmen must do an urgent soul searching, put the nation first and forget political differences, rally round the government and chase the evil away from our homestead first before fighting political war.
52. Thus, rather than whipping up emotions and vilifying our leaders at the federal and state levels, and undermining our security institutions, we need to rally round the government and display intense patriotism, particularly when our collective survival is threatened.
53. It is only these concerted efforts that can bring back our Chibok girls, defeat Boko Haram and their sponsors and restore sanity to the polity.

APPENDIX B

Nigeria: Time for Business Unusual

TELL, November 9th, 2015 Page 16.

1. With the nation's economy in dire straits amidst government's apparent managerial tardiness. Nigerians are getting worried about how the country would tackle its mounting economic challenges, particularly the grinding poverty, unemployment and, perhaps most importantly, the debility affecting infrastructure such as roads, rail, land and seaports and those of oil and gas and power.
2. Nigeria arrived at this sorry pass as a result of corruption and the wanton mismanagement, over time, of resources.
3. The situation is worsened by the ongoing severe drop in the international price of crude oil and the resultant fall in revenue from that sector which has, for many years, been the country's main foreign exchange earner.
4. The irony is that Nigeria is mired in this economic malaise just when Nigerians thought they had arrived at the political Eldorado by bringing about the 'change' that they expected - and still expect - to drive the nation into economic prosperity and have things done differently so that in no distant future, life will be more abundant and meaningful.
5. True, change in political leadership has been effected in the nation through the ballot box but almost six months down the line, there has not been a corresponding change in the socio-economic life of the average Nigerian.
6. To us it is not that the government of the day lacks the political will to effect the much-needed change: it is just that much of the ideas required to drive it have remained in the realm of promises, if not of distant surmises.
7. Certainly, the government is not in want of promises and it has assailed Nigerians with such promises and assurances of tackling poverty, creating more jobs and improving the quality and quantity of infrastructural facilities in the country.
8. But time is running out, itself a grave reality which should compel it to move beyond promises — those notoriously easy fare of political gamesmanship — to developing a template or a roadmap for achieving a truly worthy new order and space.
9. One very important way to do this, we suggest, is for it to prioritize the issue of addressing the nation's infrastructure deficit through a much more effective collaboration with the private sector.
10. This collaboration known as the public-private partnership, PPP or P3, is not new to policy makers in and outside the country.
11. It is a modern, global highway to addressing infrastructure deficit, a grave challenge which requires huge amounts of financial and human resources to tackle, since government cannot single-handedly bear the humongous cost of providing all the facilities in sectors like transportation, power, housing, communication and technology.
12. According to the Urban Development Bank, for instance, Nigeria would need, at today's cost, an estimated \$300 billion or \$10 billion every year for 30 years to address its infrastructure deficit.
13. Thus, there is the need for an urgent and reliable vehicle to speedily achieve result.

14. As far back as 2005, Nigeria embraced the PPP policy and backed it up with the establishment of the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (Establishment, etc) Act of 2005.
15. The idea is to develop regulatory and monitoring institutions so that the private sector can play a greater role in the provision of infrastructure, whilst ministries and other public agencies will focus on the planning and structuring of projects.
16. In line with the policy, the private sector will be contracted to manage some public services and to design, build, finance and operate some infrastructure.
17. The last administration keyed into this vision, though with apparent inconsistency, to achieve its goal of getting Nigeria into the enviable club of the world's biggest 20 economies by 2020.
18. Among the advantages of this policy is that it reduces the financial burden to government, thus freeing monies that would have been spent on huge capital projects by government for other uses such as education and health.
19. Other advantages include improved service delivery, cost effectiveness, reduction in public sector risk and faster delivery of capital projects using private sector resources.
20. And more importantly is the reduction in unemployment, a malaise that is fast becoming a malignant tumour for the country.
21. So far, the policy has led to the concession of the Murtala Muhammed Airport, MM2, to Bicourtney Aviation Services (partly truncated by government), the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, also to Bicourtney Highway Services (before it was annulled by the Goodluck Jonathan government as a result of disagreement between the government and the concessionaire), some aspects of seaport operations, etc.
22. That the MM2 is adjudged one of the best airports in the country today is because it is a product of successful occasioning.
23. The involvement of the private sector in the power sector that led to the establishment of the 'Gencos' (electricity generating companies) and 'Discos' (distribution companies), all of them under a regulatory commission, is helping the sector in the delivery of services to the people.
24. A further fine-tuning of this arrangement will, no doubt, lead to a rebound of the sector.
25. When this gesture is extended to the oil and gas sector, it could lead to the establishment of private refineries, thus breaking the crippling monopoly of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, and creating a healthy competition in the supply chain.
26. This may be the solution to the malignant fuel subsidy sore that is 'eating up' the nation's economy.
27. What further gives us courage in this case is the decision of Aliko Dangote, president of Dangote Group of Companies, to establish a refinery that promises to dwarf any of the ones that the government has found almost impossible to maintain over the years.
28. The antecedents of Dangote, judging by the wonders that he has performed, particularly in the area of cement production within and outside Nigeria, offer a robust hope that he will blaze the trail in the oil and gas sector.
29. Dangote's interest in the operation of a refinery dates back to the days of the Olusegun Obasanjo administration when Dangote collaborated with Femi Otedola chairman of Forte Oil Plc, to float the Blue Star Consortium for the purpose of buying 51 per cent of the Port Harcourt refinery. Sadly, though, that venture was aborted by the succeeding administration of Umaru Yar'Adua.
30. The consequence is better left for posterity to judge.
31. However, the Yar'Adua decision denied Nigerians the opportunity to assess the workability of such a novel deal, at least in Nigeria, in the oil sector.
32. But we have seen enough in other areas for us to believe that the government cannot justifiably insist on fixing all the infrastructure needs of the country with the money that it does not have in the first place.
33. There is no doubt that the privatisation of the telecoms sector has helped the economy by creating more jobs and adding N1.34 trillion, about 8.38 per cent, to the GDP in the first quarter of this year alone, apart from bringing efficiency into the sector.

34. We therefore, believe that it would amount to playing the ostrich for the government to give the impression that it can fund the provision of facilities for the education and health institutions, for instance, when administrators of such institutions court, often through philanthropy, private-sector operators to assist in providing some of these facilities.
35. It is our belief that businessman and women who provide such facilities through philanthropy would be willing to do business where there is trust.
36. The earlier examples and others that have proved very successful in developed nations such as the United Kingdom, the United States, France and even Malaysia complement the policy.
37. In Malaysia, for example, the government, in one year alone, allocated US\$6 billion for delivering public-sector projects in various sectors such as education, transport, housing and healthcare via PPP.
38. The government also undertook 52 projects with an estimated value of RM62.7 billion (about \$14.48 billion while it also planned to build seven toll highways, five university campuses, integrated transport terminal and others.
39. America, on its part, has been an old hand in PPP which has been a keystone in the development of its economy for more than 200 years.
40. The private sector played an important role in the initial development and operation of key infrastructure assets.
41. Examples include road and bridge franchises, passenger railroads, waterworks such as the Keokuk power plant and dam on the Mississippi, and other infrastructure projects vital to the economic growth and prosperity of the country.
42. The public sector played a partnership role in this development by issuing land grants or awarding franchises.
43. Similarly, the expansion of London's Gatwick Airport is an example of modern PPP at work.
44. The examples above recommend the policy as a brilliant and more effective way to jump-start the near-comatose Nigerian economy: Indeed, we see it as the key to unlocking our economic potential if pursued vigorously.
45. Again, for a government that is fighting corruption, like MuhammaduBuhari's, it is even a more effective way of removing the light fingers of public officers from the public till.
46. PPP projects, being result-driven, have no room for thieves out to-enrich themselves through implementation of public projects.
47. For the President and his government, this is not the time to engage in "business as usual", if the nation must move forward.
48. He must drive his economic team in this direction.
49. Expectedly, the civil service may want to frustrate the policy but the President must counter this with the political will to get things done in the interest of the country.
50. Incidentally, as it were, something gladdens mix heart though; it is that Buhari recognizes the import of PPP.
51. Last month, he decried the nation's "huge infrastructure deficit" and highlighted the need for strategic public-private partnerships, as he said, "in our quest for enhanced capital and expertise.
52. This is the way of the new world for all countries in the 21st Century."
53. We are impressed that the President realizes that in the new world that we find ourselves today, there is the need to do things differently so as to get different and more positive result.
54. However, we implore the President to go beyond mere rhetoric and immediately engage the Infrastructure Concession and Regulatory Commission, ICRC, in ensuring that the nation's PPP policy is virile and result-driven.
55. As contained in its enabling Act, the ICRC must eschew lethargy and "take firm custody of every concession agreement made under the Act, monitor compliance with the terms arid conditions of such agreement; ensure efficient execution of any concession agreement or contract entered into by the federal government, and ensure compliance with the provisions of the Act.
56. We note with sadness that the PPP policy under the last administration came to grief because of impunity on the part of government officials who flagrantly violated the terms of contract willingly

entered into by the previous federal government and concessionaires'. 'For instance, the contract between Bi-courtney Aviation Services, Virgin Atlantic and B-icounney Highway Services were terminated without due process by the federal government, and that is more, it even disregarded court rulings and judicial processes favouring the concessionaires.

57. This amounted to a serious breach of trust, the letter and spirit of the PPP policy and led to disturbing insinuations that Nigeria has no respect for the rule of law.
58. This negative perception of the country affects its integrity internationally and should not be allowed to rear its ugly head again.
59. We believe that the PPP is a great key that can be used to tackle the challenges of unemployment, environmental decay, urban renewal and poverty.
60. With it, government must bring in and encourage the private sector and investors within and outside the country, including Nigerians in the Diaspora, to allow them breathe into the nation's infrastructural development programmes.
61. Funding such programmes directly by government will bring back the era of waste and corruption which, today, still stares us in the face, a move that will further delay the provision of the needed facilities, thus completing the vicious cycle of continued impoverishment of the populace.
62. As it were, in support of an enlightened self-interest for the Buhari administration, this should be a policy initiative he needs promote with much vigour because, without the time its tenure down, it will have little or nothing to justify the confidence reposed in it by the electorate, and the nation, quite unfortunately, will be back to square one.
63. A lukewarm, reluctant embrace of the PPP initiative its outright abortion
64. is not the noble path take and that is why we charge the government to immediately to the line of socio-economic wisdom and so give Nigerians that which they had for long yearned for in a government, a yearning, which during the last presidential election, pointed to his change mantra as the way of the future.