Abstract
The paper focuses on the broad objectives of the Millennium Development Goal with specific emphasis on poverty, education, health, gender equality and global for the development of Nigeria. It argues that though MDGs is an externally packaged programme, its benefits cannot be over-emphasized considering the cultural and political significant of Nigeria in the international community. The paper adopts the structural-functioned model and recommends that if the "article of faith" of the MDGs is followed, political stability will be consolidated in Nigeria and this will translate into an economically stable environment for global partnership.

Introduction
Political stability cannot be achieved without democratic governance devoid of hunger, poverty, inflation, unemployment and insecurity. It is within this meaning that democratic governance promotes the core values of democracy, which among others, include the following:
1. Separation of power between three major arms of government, which is most pronounced in the Presidential System, but not strictly based on watertight compartment;
2. The rule of law which ensures that every one is bound within the confines of the law irrespective of social standing places limit to the exercise of power by those in authority; and provides guarantee against ill forms of arbitrariness;
3. Accountability which requires that power holders and power spenders must account for their actions, and seeks to replace the culture of impunity in the public sphere;
4. Independence and impartial judiciary, which gives the judicial arm the power of judicial review that could become the basis of enactment of new laws. But this requires that all citizens must have access and can find genuine avenues of seeking redress as a means of avoiding recourse to justice.
5. The protection of the fundamental human rights of citizens such as the right to dignity of the human person, personal liberty, civil liberty and fair hearing;
6. Political parties to advance to the rights of citizens to make choices from existing alternatives and as the infrastructure for competitive elections.
7. Free mass media that disseminates information to the public based on the Sense of social responsibility supported by a legal environment that guarantees access to information;


Drawing heavily from the above, it is important to note the significance of democratic governance and political stability. However, looking at Nigeria from 1999-2008, there appear to be lack of good governance thereby creating political instability. Political instability creates poverty, and other social vices. It is therefore very possible to state that there exists a fundamental crisis of governance of all levels in Nigeria.

Akpotor (2005) notes that, the most graphic illustration of this is the tendency for the ruling class or elites of all levels to rule without some notion of governance as a social contract which is implicit in the mandate given freely during election. The primary explanation according Egwu is that, democratic governance and sustainable development in Nigeria has been treated with levity (Egwu, 2007:6). Consequently, the fundamental objectives and direct principles of state policies between 1999 and 2008 were a crude record, not of history, but of human fantancies arising from emotional need and desire for primitive accumulation of national wealth. The paper notes that the various electoral, economic and political reforms or programmes had not been of historical achievement and development. This is why the Millennium Development Goals is imperative as far as our political stability is concerned.

Many people in Nigeria including our leaders suffer from appetite, desire and passion as guiding principle and ideology. Regrettably, reason and intellect does not work or influence the actions of men/women, making them corrupt and degenerate or morally bankrupt.

Historically speaking, across all societies, particularly in developing world, worsening poverty accompanied by the paralleled widening of income, inequality and ethnic superiority is arguably the most serious and common threat to nation's growth (Anikpo, 1995:11). Economic inequality encourages unemployment and injustice. It is against this stark reality that policies and economic policies must be viewed in Nigeria. However, without prejudice to any court or legal institution, Nigerian political institutions and reforms are quintessential laboratory for the study of African Political System with some exception in certain areas such as declaring winners and losers after elections (compare Ghana, South Africa and Kenya). Political instability makes our analysis constructive but makes our democracy and democratic leadership elusive, absurd and complex justifying the axiom that "it is during the night that it is beautiful to believe in light". Millennium Development Goals, if properly followed, will no doubt consolidate and sustain our present democratic project.
This assumption is predicated upon the belief that cultural changes taking place in all areas of the human existence, affect the political, economic and social activities. Consequently, the prevailing economic and social stability determines to a large extent the degree of political stability and political participation. It is therefore on this basis that the Millennium Development Goals objective becomes imperative to political stability and development in Nigeria.

The Arguments and Contexts of MDGs Objectives

The broad objectives of the Millennium Development Goals are to:

1. Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger;
2. Achieve Universal Basic Education;
3. Promote Gender Equality and Empower women;
4. Reduce Child Mortality;
5. Improve Material Health;
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases;
7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability;
8. Development a Global Partnership for Development;

According to the National Millennium Development Goals report in 2004 for Nigerian Governments, the eight items on the agenda of MDGs were seriously affected and worsened considering Nigeria as part of the Global community. What it means is that, whatever happens in one part of the world as a global village, affects the other part. Structurally speaking, as a member of the international communities/ if the problem of extreme hunger/ diseases/ inflation/ unemployment/ human rights abuses/ subjugation of womanhood and early death among Nigerians is not checked/ controlled and reduced, it will negatively affect other endeavours of humanity. The consequences of these obvious facts prompted the National Millennium Development Goals report for Nigeria in 2004.

Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger. Over the period 1980 to 1996, the proportion of poor people rose from 28.1 percent in 1980 to 65 percent in 1996. This translated to 17.7 million poor people in 1980 and 67.1 million people in 1996. By 2015, it is estimated that between 30.1 million and 40 million people would still be living in poverty. Poverty is more pronounced in rural areas compared to urban areas. However, during the 1986 to 1992, the early period of the Structural Adjustment Programme, there was a reduction in poverty in rural areas while poverty rates in urban areas remained relatively unchanged. Following 1992, poverty increased rapidly in both urban and rural areas. Major challenges to poverty reduction including social, economic, political, and cultural and environmental factors and eradicating extreme poverty and hunger requires stable political system and good governance. Past governments have
tried, some succeeding, while other was mere attempting. Poverty reduction is the core of Nigeria's medium term development programme. Obasanjo for instance, introduced the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS). The paper notes that political stability will ensure positive interventions because all policies directed at poverty reduction will benefit all segments of the Nigeria Society, especially women, youth and other vulnerable groups. Furthermore, political stability will consolidate the promotion of rural development. This can be achieved by providing technology and skill acquisition, national resources management, infrastructural development, thereby making to learn and easily.

**Achieve Universal Primary Education.** The National Policy on Education adopted in 1981 and revised in 1995 an 96 provides for Nine years of basic education. The Universal Basic Education (UBE) Programme, established in 1999, aims to provide access to all students to at least the first nine years of schooling. Nigeria also endorsed the Jomntin Conference on Education for All (EFA) by the year 2000 that set out targets for early childhood care and development, primary, education, junior secondary school, and adult literacy.

The trend in gross enrolment ratio (GER) indicates considerable fluctuation in enrolment between 1991 and 2000. Enrolment increased steadily between 1990 and 1994, rising from 68 percent. Subsequently, enrolment declined to 81 percent in 1995 and 70 percent in 1996. Nigeria, therefore, did not achieve the Jomntin EFA goals of 2000. In addition female enrolment was consistently lower than male enrolment. Literacy rates among 15 - 24 year olds have deteriorated since 1991, falling from 71.2 percent to 64.1 percent in 1999. Literacy rates were higher in urban areas compared to rural areas, and more males were literate compared to females. Recent surveys reveal the overall literacy rates have declined from 58 percent in 1990 to 49 percent in 2001, while literacy rates among women and girls have declined from 44 percent over the same period.

**Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women.** The report highlights gender disparity in access to primary, secondary and tertiary education leading to unequal access to employment. It was found that the trend in gender ratios shows a reduction of inequality at the primary and secondary levels. Although the disparity is still pronounced at the tertiary level. The ratio of literacy rates females to males in the 15 to 24 years age group increased from 0.89 in 1996 to 0.93 in 2000. However, national literacy rates remain low, declining from 58 percent in 1990 to 49 percent in 2001. During the same period literacy rates for women and girls declined from 44 percent to 41 percent.

The paper notes striking regional and geo-political zonal differences both in
overall literacy rates and in women's literacy rates. Despite the positive trend in female participation in education, there exist considerable regional variations in adult literacy between urban and rural areas and between geo-political zones. In 1999, the South East and South West Zones had the highest literacy rates. In all zones the literacy rates for males were higher than females. The imbalance in female participation in secondary and tertiary education is cited as an obstacle to access to stable wage employment and economic empowerment of women. Consequently, women are increasingly represented in wage employment and in the non-agricultural sector. Female participation in politics is also limited.

**Reduce Child Mortality.** Recent estimates from the 2008 National Demographical and Health Survey put under-five mortality rates as 2 large regional variations. Urban and rural areas had under-five mortality per 1000 and 153 per 1000 respectively. With regard to geo-political zones, the highest under-five mortality rates were found in the North West and North East and the lowest in the South East and South West.

According to the target of the goal under consideration, there must be a reduction by two-thirds of under-five mortality by 2015. This means that by the year 2015, Nigeria should be able to reduce under-five mortality to 49 per 1000. Looking at the scenario presented above, it is very unlikely that Nigeria will meet the 2015 target of reducing under-five mortality by two-thirds.

**Improve Maternal Health.** Available data indicates that maternal mortality has decreased since 1990, however, the level still remains high at approximately 1000 per 100,000 live births in the late 1990s to 2001. In 1999 in particular, the national maternal mortality rate was 704 per 100,000 live births, with considerable regional variation. While the South West and South East recorded 165 per 100,000 and 86 per 100,000 respectively, the rates were much much higher in the North West and North East, which had 1,025 per 100,000 and 1,549 per 100,000 respectively. Urban areas had lower rates of maternal mortality of 351 per 100,000 live births, compared to rural areas with recorded rates of 825 per 100,000.

**Combat HIV/Aids, Malaria and other Diseases.** It is estimated that 3.2 million to 3.5 million Nigerian adults and children were living with HIV/AIDS by the end of 2003. Current projections show an increase in the number of people living with HIV/AIDS to between 3.4 million and 4 million in 2005 and between 3.7 million and 4.3 million in 2005. By 2008, cumulative deaths from AIDS would be between 3.6 million to 4.2 million people. The age group most affected by the virus includes 20 - 29 year olds while the regions with the highest median prevalence rates include the North Central, North East and South - South
Zones. Several factors contribute to the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS in Nigeria including sexual networking practice such as polygamy, a high prevalence of untreated sexually transmitted infections (511), low condom use, poverty, low literacy, poor health status, low status of women, stigmatization, and denial of HIV infection risk among vulnerable groups. Nigeria is a complex mixture of diverse ethnic groups, languages, cultures, religions, and regional political groupings, all of which present major challenges for HIV prevention programmes. In response to the epidemic, Nigeria’s HIV/AIDS Emergency Action Plan (2001 - 2004) aims to increase awareness; promote behavioural change; foster community specific action plans; improve legislation; promote care and support; mitigate the effect of the disease; monitor and stimulate research on HIV/AIDS.

Data on prevalence and deaths associated with tuberculosis reveal that while the prevalence rate appeared to be slowing down between 1990 and 1995, it began to rise again in 1996. By 1998, it was estimated that 27,840 people had the disease. The death associated with TB have increased over time from as low as 12 in 1993 to 940 in 1999 underscoring the fact that the country is enmeshed in a new wave of the disease, partially attributed to the effect of HIV infection.

The prevalence of malaria in Nigeria mains high, which may be due to the abundance of unkempt drainage and an environment that aids the vectors of malaria. Data available indicates that the prevalence of malaria increased from 1, in 1990 to 1,875,380 in 1998. Deaths recorded from malaria, have also been on the increase.

Ensure Environmental Sustainability: Despite the emergence of an institutional framework, there have been few achievements related to environmental protection and natural resources management. Several problems were identified, including land degradation, pollution, flood and erosion desertification, inefficient use of energy resources, loss of bio-diver, Environmental disaster and deforestation. Poor access to improved sanitation facilities in Nigeria is blamed on poor implementation of health, housing and other related policies, high levels of low level of awareness about issues concerning environmental sustainability and the general underdevelopment of the rural areas. To improve the lives of slum dwellers, it is recommended that attention should be paid to increasing access to improved sanitation and adequate housing in rural and urban areas.

Develop a Global Partnership for Development. Nigeria plays a prominent role in regional cooperation initiatives sum as the Africa Union’s (AU), New Economic Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and has the potential to benefit from global trade initiatives such as the US African
Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA). The country actively participates in world trade negotiations and along with other developing countries advocates for a solution to the longstanding issues of agricultural protection in industrialized countries. The issue of the high level of Nigeria's indebtedness is discussed in relation to exploring innovative mechanisms for debt relief and increase official development assistance to support the country's efforts to achieve the MDGs. Nigeria is already benefiting from the provision of new information and communication technology due to private sector initiatives that have resulted in improved access to telephone lines and computer.

Implications of MDGs for Political Stability in Nigeria
The point about civilization is that, it does not descend lightly into terror, poverty and underdevelopment. Consequently, there can not be political stability if the Millennium Development Goals are not achieved considering their effect on democratic participation and leadership. There cannot be any meaningful development alongside illiteracy, poor health care delivery and insecurity. What are the implications of MDGs to political stability in Nigeria? Below are some of them.

**Extreme Poverty and Hunger.** Without interventions and policies directed at extreme poverty and hunger reduction, Nigerian society, especially women, youths, unemployment and other vulnerable groups will not participate politically in decision making. Man must eat first before he can lure into politics, art and other economic and political activities. The implication of extreme poverty and hunger on political stability is obvious.

**Universal Primary Education.** Education plays a vital role in democratic development and political participation. However, without universal primary education, resource constraints, poverty, institutional constraints, culture and quality of teaching would pose a severe challenge and this would hamper political development and economic empowerment. Efforts to educate the girl child will also be impossible without universal basic education. The implication of education on political development is an issue that cannot be neglected or treated with levity.

**Gender Equality and Women Empowerment.** The basic challenges to gender equality and the empowerment of women are the development of the capacity to mainstream gender into policy and strategy and the need to increase female participation in education and politics. Without equality, political
participation would not be complete. Democratic development is impossible with gender equality and women empowerment in the areas of politics and education. However, women and other vulnerable group must be treated equally in the scheme of things to create political stability,

**Reduce Child Mortality Rates.** Reduction of child mortality rates would promote democracy and sustainable development. This would create a politically stable environment. Governments can plan, project and evaluate the population accurately and efficiently,

**Improve Maternal Health.** The challenges to democratic development and political stability when considering how to improve maternal health are teenage pregnancy, harmful cultural factors, and lack of health personnel and other infrastructure, particularly in rural area. Political crisis can always arise from the failure of governments to give support to the deployment of skilled health professionals and provision of supplies and equipment to easily accessible health care facilities. These are essential and must be met, failure could create political instability and breed violent.

**Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases.** The notion that, a healthy nation, is a healthy nation or "Health is Wealth" is only meaningful when a nation is able to combat deadly diseases and reduce the rates of their spread. Data on prevalence and deaths associated with HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis reveal that these diseases affect political development and stability. A sick nation cannot perform optimally as regards political participation.

**Ensure Environmental Sustainability.** Democracy works better in a controlled populated nation especially if their political awareness, consciousness, Socialization and participation are limited. How can any government cater for a rapidly expanding population without destroying the environment, or dealing with the issue of increasing social unrest and dislocation due to environmental degradation, promoting private sector participation in infrastructure while adopting environmentally friendly technologies is of important to politicians and their agents. All these might affect the stability of the country like we are having in the Niger-Delta.

**Develop a Global Partnership for Development.** Some of the challenges of this goal to political to political development and stability are how access to markets in the European Union and the United States as well as improvements in the national capacity to exploit these new market opportunities. For political stability in Nigeria, the government should seek to promote domestic and foreign investment and deal with the issue of debt reduction to provide additional resources for development. Recently, Nigeria Federal Government took a
foreign loan bringing our external debt to 3.7 Billion Dollars. This will weaken our productivity and create a multiplier effects. The consequences would be severe for the economy and political stability.

**Between Alienation, Imperialism, Political Stability and MDGs**

The root meaning of alienation ship to property. For instance, one could alienate one's property by to another person, or to an institution. Without seriously and coning the Eight Goals of Millennium Development, many people would lose parties or even their fundamental or inalienable rights because of poverty, the diseases and early deaths. No wonder, one could understand during the 17th century why the attention on alienation shifted from material to immaterial possession giving both Grotius and Locke the moral liberty to argue that alienating certain rights power was a necessary prerequisite for legitimate Political Society. Alienation is " sense became the basis of social control theory and is seen as positive element.

The paper notes that certain rights are not just incidental to human character, but essential. Hence such rights were inalienable and to lose such rights either by giving them away or by having them removed against one's will, was to lose an essential part of humanity.

Rousseau argues that alienation is uncompromisingly a condition of developed society. Where systems of law - moral, religious, political and economic rob one of the responsibility of setting the parameters of one's own liberty. Under such conditions one will remain alienated from one's political, moral self, unless and until one participates in the setting of such boundaries (Rousseau, 1762:8).

Hegel disagreed with Rousseau stating that the purpose of history is to be the progressive overcoming of the gap between the particular consciousness and the universal consciousness until a final unity of the two is achieves (absolute self consciousness). History, to Hegel, is therefore the story of humanity's progress towards freedom from alienation. Alienation is therefore through a historical conception (Hegel).

Marx believes that alienation originates in the material conditions of existence the ensemble of social relations' within which the individual is enmeshed. Overcoming alienation requires a change in the material conditions of productive social existence, and such a change cannot be wrought by individuals. Alienation must be overcome by the activity of a historically specific class. The paper believes humanity to be capable of producing freely and creatively overcome the tyranny of immediate, basic needs that characterize the rest of the animal kingdom through paying proper attention to the National
Millennium Development Goals. However, citizens would be alienated from even the products they produce if they work as an individualistic element within their society.

The fear of alienation forced colonialist out of their European enclaves. Hobson considers some of the psychological motives which have been put forward as an explanation of imperialism such as national pride, quest for glory and bellicosity. While admitting that those factors might be relevant to the explanation of imperialism, he dismisses them as not constituting a major cause. He asserts that the dominant motive for imperialism was the quest for market as well as opportunity for higher return on investments. According to Hobson (1902:46) the need for this quest arises partly because as a result of the development of capitalism in the west industry was more productive and needed greater imports of raw materials; more food to urban population growing in response to industrialization; and products to meet the rising demand for luxury goods created by a rising standard of living.

Hobson maintain that a more important cause of imperialism was the tendency for production to outgrow consumption, a tendency towards over-saving and over-investment and under-consumption. Association with the tendency for investment to outstrip consumption is the distribution of income which gives too much money to employers and too little to employees. To deal with this dilemma falls into three categories as reflected below.

An attempt by organized labour and the State to ensure that workers obtain a larger share of the surplus, this would increase the purchasing power of the workers, increase effective demand and eliminate alienation;

The second is the restriction of output - financial control of enterprises by sharing the market, regulating it and imposing production quotas and tariff barriers;

The third option is for those who own capital to persuade the State to aid them in securing new markets by the establishment of colonies, spheres of influence or protectorate. It was the third option that led to imperialism. The question to ask is: why should there be under-consumption or why should there be more saving than could be profitably and useful employed? The simplest answer is alienation. The paper notes that, if the economy was such that consumption power or incomes were distributed according to needs, there would be no under-consumption. This preposition is predicated on the fundamental assumption that, since human needs are not finite, consumption would rise with productivity and there would be no excess saving. Imperialism is a logical outcome of capitalism. Under capitalism, for instance. factory work (through the division of labour) turns labour from a social activity into an individualistic process, alienating worker from each other. Factory work dehumanizes workers by giving them repetitive tasks which requires no free,
creative input. Thus workers are alienated from their human potential and so, superseding of capitalist mode of production is a necessary prerequisite for ridding alienation of its distorted elements.

The consequences of which would promote and consolidate political stability and encourage democratic governance and development. The National Millennium Development Goals is the right dose for the symptoms of political instability as reflected in poverty, hunger, diseases, unemployment and under development leading to ethnic and religions crisis.

Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

Men are engaged in politics as they try to define their positions in society, as they struggle for scarce resources and as the try to convince others to accept their points of view in an institutionalized setting called a State. The paper notes that the best way or the means to maximize individual's capacity and capabilities or attain the highest form of social life was through political interaction with others. This forms part of political participation and representation. These activities are designed to resolve conflicts and to set collective goals. It is within this context that the concept of politics is defined as the resolution of conflict in society (Austins, 1975:37), as the authoritative of allocation of values (Easton, 1957:383-400), as who gets what, when and how (Harold, 1930: 16) or the art of influencing, manipulating and controlling (Quincy, 1955:130) and finally, the guest for power, order and justice (Peter, 1967:13). Politics or political activities are not properly conducted where there is extreme poverty, hunger, high mortality rate, gender inequality, unfriendly environment and unprecedented deaths from diseases. All these affect productivity and development. The consequence is political instability and underdevelopment. It further creates the 'problem of struggle among the ruling class, and the new form of ideological containment is itself pregnant with contradictions. The struggle of the ruling class in Nigeria to contain the crisis of legitimacy and revolutionary pressures has taken rather predictable forms. Our national problems are quite clear and what to do about them is equally clear.

We must deal with poverty, ignorance and disease; we must reduce our dependence, pursue development and became a going concern in the international system of states. And we must do this by relying essentially on our resources and in a way that reflects our own culture and our unique historical experience. The task to be done is very urgent and the resources with which to do it very limited. We cannot therefore afford wasteful divisiveness, ideological debates or tolerance of subversion of the effort so necessary to our survival. Political instability has caused the nation so many resources. The recent crisis in Jos, Plateau State and Bauchi State, have consequences on the nation's economy and political stability.
The paper therefore conclude that the importance of the National Millennium Development Goals cannot be over-emphasized as far as political stability is concern. It however recommends the following:

- Efforts should be made to promote development. This must be even and equitable, it must focus on the rural areas and the most vulnerable group in the society.

- Gender equality should be addressed to educate the girl-child. Educating women would help promote justice, equity and promote participation in the political and the economic spheres.

- Provision of infrastructure such as health care centre employment. Employed citizens with greater economic power can help promote political participation. This would reduce poverty, hunger and unemployment. The consequence is a nation with better health care system. When people are happy, it reduces frustration, and depression. Frustration and depression are the causes of revolution.

- The human nature is complex and absurd and there is no mathematics for the human behaviour. Attempt should be make to engage in constructive/analytical and positive dialogue so as to create an environment devoid of bared, avarice and prejudice. This can be achieved if the resources of the State are authoritatively allocated.

- Attempt should be made to use right model, method in understanding the causes of crisis. This is important because, the present Niger Delta Crisis has political/economic, cultural and social root. To properly deal with the situation/efforts should be made to understand the reason behind kidnapping. The psychological basis of the crisis is imperative and the philosophy of military solution is a mere figment of imagination.
References


