NIGERIA FOREIGN POLICY AND REPUTATIONAL PROJECTS: 
AN EVALUATION OF THE IMPLICATIONS AND PROSPECTS

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ABSTRACT

Nigeria has been portrayed in bad light in the last few years, largely due to its unimpressive image and reputation as a corrupt and mismanaged economy often blamed on inadequate accountability of governance. The goal of this paper is to evaluate the key national strategies which were designed to elevate the country’s dwindling reputation within the international community. Using a survey research method, the opinions of 480 respondents (comprising volunteers that are currently participating in the national foreign policy projects within Nigeria and in the diplomatic services) were sampled. A significant number of respondents believed that sharing the country’s technical know-how and expertise with the recipient ACP countries leverages Nigeria’s national and global image and reputation profile. The study found out that these foreign policy programmes have earned Nigeria respect, honour and regard from the recipient ACP countries. Both bilateral and political cooperation and understanding between Nigeria and her foreign policy programmes’ recipients have significantly improved. The impact of these foreign policy programmes on the recipient countries’ economies are enormous and helps to project Nigeria in good light within the framework of her international (public) relations and diplomacy. It is not yet “uhuru” for Nigeria given that a lot of indices combine to give a country the desired national image and reputation. Therefore, it is only when those factors show positive signs in national image that Nigeria can stand tall or remain great in the comity of nations.

Keywords: Foreign Policy, National Image, Governance, Nigeria.