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SUSTAINING PRIVATISATION OF ELECTRICITY SERVICE DELIVERY IN NIGERIA: A RESOLUTION BETWEEN ASPATIAL AND SPATIAL PLANNING APPROACH

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Abstract

The symbiotic relationship of the concept of Aspatial and spatial planning approach to power reform cannot be underestimated, as it is critical to the sustainable service delivery of electricity to the target population, especially in Nigeria and other developing countries. As problem statement, the planning of service delivery of electricity supply, most often, had always been approached from the aspatial level of planning that is, "mere policy statement", just as issue of privatization of electricity service delivery in Nigeria, without much relevance to spatial dimensional aspect. This lopsided planning approach to service delivery of public utilities generally and in particular electricity supply has consequently been the raison d'etre for; poor implementation of its laudable privatisation policy, inability to achieve the goals of its well-articulated and full packaged Strategies. The skewed distribution of electrical facilities, ineffective and malfunctioning conditions, overstretching and overloading of available facilities, incessant power failure, general poor electricity service delivery, inter alia, in Nigeria are attributable to non-adherence to spatial planning approach. The study, methodologically drawn from relevant literatures and tertiary sources of data, objectively aimed at stressing the symbiotic importance of spatial planning approach to the sustainability of aspatial planning strategies. Comprehensive planning, adequate available spatial data, involvement of relevant stakeholders, among others were the suggested recommendations, with main focus on privatization approach to service delivery of electricity in Nigeria.

Keywords: Sustainability, Aspatial planning, spatial planning, service delivery, public utility-electricity

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Achieving sustainable service delivery of electricity supply to the target population in any nation is a product of adequate and articulate planning process, effective and thorough due diligence in other to avert failure in its operation as it is being experience in Nigeria today, [1]. Privatisation of electricity would have been a sustainable policy if the spatial dimension of the sector had been clinically looked into before embarking on it. This lapse is being lamented by some Nigerians in the column of different national dailies, [2] [3] advocate for review of the policy, [4] in the same report complaint of lack of due diligence in the exercise. [5] Pointed out huge amount of money in billion dollars invested in the sector in the past 15 years, with no improvement. Just as the former Power Minister observed the deterioration of facilities of the power transmissions and distribution in the country, [6]. This was also the remarked by the Association of Nigeria Electricity Distribution (ANED), [7]. The above scenario informs the paper advocating for spatial planning approach to compliment power reform policy in Nigeria. The paper looks at the policy resolution and decision makings in the country right from the Colonial era till date as being aspatial approach cum administrative exercise that are not in tandem with the spatial reality, that is, human, space and social centered. Similarly occurrence is the privatisation policy that handed over electricity service delivery to the distribution companies on 13th November 2013. It is the stress of this paper that, for sustainability of

privatisation approach to electricity service delivery, it must evolve from two different forms but complimentary approaches which are; aspatial cum spatial planning approaches.

Conceptually, the term aspatial is the antonym for the word spatial term. As such, the word "aspatial" means without spatial dimension or areal relationship. The connotation of the term aspatial as an administrative term was captured in article of [8] that; "The modifiable areal unit problem arises when the boundaries that define neighbourhood affect perceived levels of segregation. Scholars postulate that this problem is exacerbated when one uses a definition of neighbourhoods that is based on administrative units; doing so leads to an aspatial measure of segregation, which may or may not adequately account for the spatial relationships among residential locations" Here it means that, a roundtable paperwork process of planning is aspatial planning approach. The end product of this is a policy statement that provides a set of guiding principles to help with decision making, just as the privatisation policy of electricity service delivery in Nigeria. However, since planning cannot be in isolation of the end users of either plants, animals, or human beings, then it must have a spatial dimension and areal relationship for appropriate implementation of the policy such as the privatisation of electricity service delivery, as it determines the economic development, national growth and impacts upon the social welfare of the majority at the lower cadre of the society, [9].

Privatisation is an economic policy, a process to salvage nation's economic downturn. On the other hand electricity supply is a public utility that is critical to the basic living of the citizens in the country. Hence, any policy springing up or decisions arriving at in respect of its service delivery must be in line with the situations on ground. Such as; the spatial distributive pattern of electricity facilities, location of the facilities in relation to the neighbourhood pattern and requirements, consideration of the quantum of consumption of electricity in relation to the capacity of the facility, inter alia. The premise of this paper is to explain indispensability of spatial planning approach, that is; 'policy accompany procedures' or 'policy implementation process' to aspatial planning approach, which is; 'policy formulation process and resolutions'. The two strategies are operationally interdependent and having interrelationship attributes of each other. Nevertheless, non-adherence of our policy and decision makers in Nigeria to these planning realities has not only been the reason for failure of privatisation approach to electricity service delivery in Nigeria as the main discourse of this paper, but had since been the bane of actualisation of virtually all the development plans and economic strategies in Nigeria right from the Colonial rule to date, as it is been summarised in table 2 for emphasis in the literature review section of the paper.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Planning In Its Definitive Connotations

Definitively, planning is a method of setting goals, evolving strategies, charting course of actions and setting time to achieve the set goals. [10], in the business world, it is the responsibilities of the executive, [11], in the government that is (Politicians) they are the public policy makers taken decision on various development plans, while the physical planners are concerned with; environmental, land use, regional, urban and spatial planning, [12], [13]. Planning enables civic leaders, businesses, and citizens to play a meaningful role in creating communities that enrich people's lives. Good planning helps create communities that offer better choices for where and how people live, [14], [15]. Planning helps communities to envision their future. It helps them find the right balance of new development and essential services, environmental protection, and innovative change. [16].

Aspatial planning has its connotations and dimensions from its types, method and process of formulation by those experts in various works of life. All kind of policies that are made and the decision taken by the political body of a country under a governance process, or Executive body of an organisation in an administrative gathering are classified as aspatial planning approach. Few of these types of policies of aspatial planning connotation are outlined and briefly, summarily explained in the table 1below.

Table 1 Showing policy making as aspatial types of planning

s/n	Aspatial types planning	Inferences and Dimensions
1	Social policy: (Poverty, unemployment, housing etc. [17]	These listed types of aspatial planning among the likes are the conceptual and theoretical aspect of planning, [21]. It is embarked upon by a group of intellectuals, experts, and technocrats to come up with a policy statement, decision making and development plan. I see this aspatial planning approach as a **'means'** to an end. Where the **'end'** is the spatial dimension for the actualization of the outcomes of the development plans.
2	Business policy, [18], [19]	
3	Socio-economic policy, [20]	
4	Administrative and government political policy [22], [23], [24].	
5	Financial policy, [25], [26].	

2.2 The Trend of National Development Plan in Nigeria, without Spatial Dimension

In this section, the paper highlight the trend of National development plans that did not put adequate spatial dimension into consideration, which account for total failure of some of the plans outcome and unsustainable process of the implemented ones. For instance, with all agricultural policies and strategies, importation of rice and other food items are taking toll on the national budget. A look at industrial policy without commensurate adequate and functioning infrastructure facility planning is a bane of that sector's development. A sector that should serve in different capacity as absorbent of the teaming unemployed products (graduates) of the nation's higher institutions, [27], Hence the stress of this paper on indispensability of spatial planning approach, that is; 'policy accompany procedures' or 'policy implementation process' to aspatial planning approach, which is; 'policy formulation process and resolutions'. The two strategies are operationally interdependent and having interrelationship attributes of each other. Nevertheless, non-adherence of our policy and decision makers in Nigeria to these planning realities had since been the bane of actualisation of virtually all the development plans and economic strategies in Nigeria. This has been the challenging factor bedeviling privatisation approach to electricity service delivery in Nigeria the main focus of this paper, as observed by [28], [29]. See table 2 below for emphasis in this section, these are development plans along with the years of formulation.

Table 2 The trend of national development plan in Nigeria [31]

Year	Govt.	Period	Purpose	Achievement	Planning approach	
					Aspatial	Spatial
1946	Plan of Development and Welfare by the colonial government	April 1, 1946 to March 31, 1956 (Ogunjimi, 1997:97).	Building a transport and communication system, little provision for industrial development	interest of the colonial masters	Yes- Just for the Aides & colonial workers at that time	Nil- The general populace were left out of the welfare plan.
1950	foreign-centered development plan	1950-1956	Crops; cocoa, palm products, cotton, groundnut and timber.	interest of the colonial masters	Ditto	Ditto
	Federal Government development plan	1955-1960	N/A	N/A	Just policy statement	Non implementation
1962	First National Development Plan	(1962-68).	Port Harcourt Refinery, Paper Mill, Sugar Mill, Niger Dam (in Jebba and Bacita respectively), the Niger Bridge, ports' extension, road construction universities of Ibadan and Lagos by the Federal Government, Ahamdu Bello University in the North, University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN) in the East, Obafemi Awolowo University) in the Western		Yes, There were no concerted effort for its sustainability. All in deplorable conditions.	Nil, Major achievements & products are not for public welfare in term of infrastructure development. Graduating students into joblessness, etc.
1966	military intervention	1966				
1967-70	civil war	1967-70				
	First National /Regional Development Plan extended	March 31, 1970				
1970	Second National Development Plan by General Yakubu Gowon	promotion of economic and social development in the new Nigeria	Federal roads; successful take-off of the National Youth Service Corps scheme; introduction of federal scholarship and loan schemes for Nigerian students, etc.		Yes, they are all good policies.	Nil, as there are no adequate data for its sustainability.
	Third National Development Plan by General Yakubu Gowon	April 1975 to March 1980	Even distribution of income; reduction in the level of unemployment; diversification of the economy; balanced development; and indigenization of economic activities.		Yes, these are policy aspirations in its formulation, but poorly implemented	Nil, as the policies did not materialized into reality. Majority are low income earners
July 1975	change of government, military rule		Agriculture, water supply, housing and health were giving priority. (Olaniyi, 1998:108).			
1981	Fourth National Development Plan, by President Shehu Shagari	(1981-85)	performance of the economy during the fourth plan period was generally poor		Yes, just as above.	Nil, as it did not have areal representation.

Following the trend of these development plans as tabulated in table 2. above, it is clear that there were no concerted effort at preparing a workable physical plan either in form of master plan or structure plan as the case may be, to serve as a physical foundation or implementation template on which these socio-economic development plans should follow in Nigeria, where there master or structure plan, they were not followed in the implementation of the policy. These accounted for uncoordinated socio-economic development, uneven distribution of infrastructural facility across the country. This initial disjointed crooked foundation is a reflection of the sporadic physical development in Nigeria. The country has witness various, rolling plans, strategic socio-economic policies, different Programmes without much resounding success, [32]). [33], captured the reason for this as; planning without consultation, of which privatisation of electricity service delivery is a case in question calling for review at every corner, [34], [35], and [36].

2.3 Types of Spatial Planning

A good number of spatial planning types has been existence. [37] In his book, designing Communities made mention of the following six types and their meanings, the seventh one mentioned by [38].

Table 3 Showing types spatial planning [39-40]

s/n	**Types of Spatial Planning.**	**Connotations**
1	Traditional or comprehensive planning	The view of non-politically influenced expert about the new urban development.
2	Systems planning: 1950s–1970s	Planning becomes more analytical from the view of a set of complex processes that make up the planning area.
3	Democratic planning: 1960s	Planning is viewed as more of stakeholders' inclusion for holistic community development.
4	Advocacy and equity planning	Identification of inequalities and injustice in the location and allocation of planning resources and the Strategic planning move to redress it to achieve an egalitarian society.
5	Strategic planning 1960s-present	A step-by-step attention giving to a recognized issues in its reality.
6	Environmental planning: 1960s-present;	Spatial planning becomes environmentally conscious and move to protect and preserve the ecosystem to maintain ecological balance in all physical development.
7	Landscape planning;	Erv Zube (1931–2002) sees planning tending to harmonize different conflicting land uses and seek to maintain ecological friendly of the environment, this is also shared by (Geoffrey & Susan, 1987).

2.4 Spatial Planning: Its Inferences and Imperatives

The influence of spatial planning on other sectors such as; housing, transportation and generation of energy cannot be underestimated. It is fundamental for holistic framework of the various sectorial strategic policy making, which is eventually crucial to the discourse and understanding of the current environmental issues. [41].

Spatial planning, in either within or between nations, is an important tools for instituting longstanding, sustainable structures for sociocultural, economic, and environmental development. It is essential to the integration of different sectors such as; agriculture, education, housing, transport, industry, and energy. Spatial planning improves the system of national and regional urban and rural development taking into cognizance of environmental implications. The training on spatial planning serves as an avenue to educate the politicians, the policymakers about the imperatives of considering spatial planning as complimentary to all their decisions. [42].

The study on spatial planning further emphasis on the fact that joint vision and collaborative effort is needed for effective spatial development, bearing in mind a proficient use of available resources, good governance, reforms and privatization model, public-private partnership combining a laudable decision making with reference to investment opportunity.

The foregoing implies that professional planners should be conscious of the necessity of integrated spatial planning system to the implementation of the outcome of aspatial planning, that is, policy that has direct influence on the wellbeing and actual life of the people. In this regard, the stakeholders and the community grass rooters should be carried along in the course of planning process, sharing from their well of local knowledge and experience. This will serve as supportive role to the openness and multifarious spatial planning which is an essential tools for physical development. [43].

2.5 The Importance Of Spatial Planning

The benefits of spatial planning are in different dimensions such as; economic benefits, social benefits, and environmental benefits. These benefits are itemised for clarity in Tables 4, 5, & 6.

Table 4 Showing economic importance

s/n	Economic importance
1	Availability of strong investment environment
2	Provision of suitable economic development avenue
3	Well-articulated circulation for work force
4	Enhancing urban and rural environmental value and sanity that serves as nurture ground for economic venture and development
5	Discovering development opportunity that address the desire of the community dwellers
6	Encouraging resource recycling, restoration and redevelopment
7	Possibility of effective and sustainable decision making.

Table 5 Social importance

s/n	Social importance
1	Inclusion of the stakeholders' essentials in the policy making
2	Available Avenue for development growth
3	Possibility of locating facility where is needed in the community
4	Turning environmental constraints such as: unused, bad, and derelict land to economic potential uses to promote quality of life and development.
5	Supporting the formation and preservation of secured, healthy, aesthetically pleasing, and functioning working environment.

Table 6 Environmental importance

s/n	Environmental importance
1	Enhancing renewal, infrastructure location, effective land use and housing.
2	Supporting efficient and maximum use of developed land and conservation of the green area
3	Preservation and conservation of cultural heritage and historic values.
4	Guiding against environmental hazards such as; air pollution, flooding etc.
5	Conservation and management of natural resources and recreation area
6	Creation of accessibility for various means of transport; pedestrian, cycles, vehicles, etc.
7	Promotion of effective energy use in the planning and design of neighbourhood

2.6 The Purpose Of Spatial Planning Generally

Itemised below are some of the purposes of and importance of spatial planning generally. These were also similarly supported by [44], in the concluding part of his work on 'strategic spatial planning'.

- To develop idea and constant focus not only on planned evaluation of the appropriate need but on what is possibly obtainable in any circumstances just as the intractable case of electricity service delivery.
- To preserve the right, interest, and obligations of the people most especially in the service delivery of essential public utilities like electricity.
- To conserve and manage the ecosystem generally. If man must continue to be part of the ecosystem, then the maintenance of the natural system to avoid environmental deterioration and ensure ecological balance must be enhanced.
- To effectively make use of available resources such as; land, water, atmosphere, human, finance, etc. without negative interference.
- To attain an even location of public utility and higher quality of service delivery of electricity by all tiers of government.
- To harmonize the activities and investments spheres between the public and the private actors.
- To foster equity, fairness and justice, and set priorities to meet people's desirable needs.
- To integrate various government sectorial activities and avoid

3.0 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK UNDERPINNING SPATIAL PLANNING

3.1 The Principles Of Spatial Planning As Underpinning Basis For Sustaining Privatisation Of Electricity Service Delivery in Nigeria.

Basically, spatial planning is not stereotypic to a particular ideal model. However, here are some six key important basics that form the ambit of its operability abound in the literature, such as; the democratic principle, the subsidiarity principle, the participation principle, the integration principle, the proportionality principle and the precautionary principle [45]. All these, among others are the realms within which spatial planning strategies could be embarked upon base on the peculiarities of the area of operation and the details are discussed below;

3.1.1 The Democratic Principle

The type and system of rule and administration of government determine the features and nature of spatial planning in this regard. As a form of good governance, there must be a symbiotic relationship of a good government's strategic policies (aspatial planning) with a good spatial planning as it directly has influence on the quality of life of the public just as electricity supply. The government policy makers, the elected politicians should strictly take into

consideration and adhere to the physical planners' recommendations in all their decision makings and must be legally backed up for effective implementation and sustainable development.

3.1.2 The Subsidiarity Principle

At the grass root, local level is where planning should start from, being close to the people. Nevertheless there are at times when the extent of planning issue may be too enormous for the local capacity, in that case the national level should wade into addressing the situation. Such gesture became imperative as it may have influential effect from one local area to other, cities to others even regions to other regions. The implication of this is for interconnectedness, competence sharing, wholesome and coherence spatial development planning strategies in the affected areas. This can be employed to tackle the knotty problem electrical facility distribution.

3.1.3 The Participation Principle

The influence of spatial planning decision is so broad and much infectious on the people and the environment, thus redefines the inclusion of public participation in other to enhance the authenticity, applicability and wide acceptability of the spatial planning decisions. It fosters local awareness and sense of belongings if the community is carried along in the process of decision-making. It allows the stakeholders to air their own views so that individual cultural differences mutually resolved and reservations amicably trade off in the interest of the community's coexistence. The people become privy to the reason and purpose of policy and spatial planning decisions as they are allowed to have input, suggestions, and comments on any plan.

3.1.4 The Integration Principle

Sectorial divisions and difference geographical divisions are means through which government efficiently and effectively go about their administrations. However, the policies and decisions from various quarters have all along been uncoordinated which has accounted for their failure in implementation. Various reforms, deregulation and privatization are case in point. The integration principle of the spatial planning strategy is crucial to the coordination of these various sectorial policies which are non-spatial/aspatial planning approach. Spatial planning strategy harmonizes all the various government sectorial administrative policies and serves as complimentary approach to all the sectional administrative policies thereby fostering coherence and mutual reinforcement of the policies and their implementations. [46].

3.1.5 The Proportionality Principle

Physical and environmental resources are best managed with proportionality principle. It is good to have a laudable and definite policies that is an enhancer to development and of immense benefit to the people. On the other hand, it also become imperative for the policy to be put side by side with resources to carry it out in order to maintain a balance between the end and the means. Spatial planning should serve as a check and balance in the implementation of any administrative policy, stating the opportunities and the constraints within the physical, social, cultural and economic environment of the community. A minimalist approach, that is, prioritizing of urgently needed issue should be part of the tenet of spatial planning strategy rather than giving up to administrative prescription and measures that are perhaps not feasibly. This principle for instance, would pave way for environmental protection measures and fosters ecological balance. Any policy or proposal to be implemented would be based on the sociocultural, economic, environmental, and ecological criteria of the means to actualize it rather than giving in to hardy and unchallengeable dictates to implement the administrative policies.

3.1.6 The Precautionary Principle

Attempt to preserve the vulnerable areas from environmental degradation is in the purview of precautionary principle of spatial planning. As such, uncertain development policy that is seemly detrimental to social welfare or ecological balance are better checked by making prompt decision to limit its implementation. In this regard, precautionary principle of spatial planning thereby enhancing and maintaining environmental sanity in spite of uncertainty and paucity of information about the environmental effect of such development.

3.2 Spatial Planning Government Responsibility

"*…It is the responsibility of Governments to prepare efforts. Such policies must be an essential spatial strategy plans and adopt human settlement policies to guide the socio-economic development component of an overall development strategy, linking and harmonizing them with policies on industrialization, agriculture, social welfare, and environmental and cultural preservation so that each supports the other in a progressive improvement in well-being of all mankind. A human settlement policy must seek harmonious integration or coordination of a wide variety of components, including, for example, population growth and distribution, employment, shelter, land use, infrastructure and services. Governments must create mechanisms and institutions to develop and implement such a policy.*" [47].

Spatial planning of human settlement ought to have been carried out before development plan be implemented and before any reform or privatization of any government sector. The only professional planners, though not commonly agreed with, [48], that are armed with all the techniques and theories of planning and can competently harness all other specialists in planning profession for better implementation of any strategic policy, economic programme and development plans are the professional Town Planners, who were referred to in other word as spatial planners, [49].

3.3 Spatial Planning As Complimentary To Aspatial Planning Approach Of Power Reforms And Policies

Spatial planning is concerned with "the problem of coordination or integration of the spatial dimension of sectorial policies through a territorially-based strategy" [50]. More complex than simple land-use regulation, it addresses the tensions and contradictions among sectorial policies, for example for conflicts between economic development, environmental and social cohesion policies. The key role of spatial planning is to promote a more rational arrangement of activities and to reconcile competing policy goals. The scope of spatial planning differs greatly from one country to another, but most share a number of similarities. In almost all countries, spatial planning is concerned with identifying long-or medium-term objectives and strategies for territories, dealing with land use and physical development as a distinct sector of government activity, and coordinating sectorial policies such as transport, agriculture and environment [51]. It embraces measures to coordinate the spatial impacts of other sectorial policies to achieve a more even distribution of economic development between regions that would otherwise be created by market forces, and to regulate the conversion of land and property uses, it can be viewed as collaborative planning of giving attention to place qualities and process, that is having good city and good governance, [52]. It is giving the principles and norms a required spatial dimensions and specification such as zoning green areas, allocation of sites for development of housing scheme, industrial zones, etc. in form of Comprehensive' spatial visions, [53], [54]. "Even economists are being encouraged to take account of the spatiality of economic phenomena" [55].

3.4 Privatization of Service Delivery of Electricity without Spatial Dimension and Its Challenges.

The neglect of the spatial planning approach in the power sector reform and the eventual privatization of service delivery of electricity in Nigeria is not without a lot of shortcomings. The reform is a gross digression from the urban setting as a center of attention and the privatization is more of policy statement not in consonance with areal reality, that is, the poor situation of electricity service delivery and the actual deteriorated picture of electrical facilities on ground are not considered. The power reform processes were in isolation of the social setting. [56], [57], and [58]. [59] Averred for planning that physical spatial dimension in his work entitled 'Planning and Things'. It is high time policies, various reforms and privatization approaches to service delivery in country are given a realistic dimension that put areal relationship into policy resolution as advocates for the case of service delivery of electricity in Nigeria. Enquired by [60] that, 'can we turn once more to reality itself? That is relating the spatial dimension, physical condition of electrical facilities, socioeconomic background of the people, and their spatial dimension with the power reform policy.

Privatisation of electricity service delivery is human centered issue which borders on their social welfare. It is one of the basic need the government owe its people to supply as it borders on their quality of life and socioeconomic development, [61]. Effective service delivery of electricity is majorly dependent on adequate available spatial data of human settlement and other land uses [62]. A poorly planned human settlement or where service delivery do not follow existing human settlement pattern, there is bound to be skewed distribution, over and underutilization of facilities, inability to know the quantum of electricity consumption in relation to carrying capacity of electrical facility, inability to distinguish the different socioeconomic status of the users to determine billing for easy collection and possible cost recovery for eventual replicability, among others. Professionally, adequate spatial planning alongside with sufficient spatial data and information, relevance to effective public utilities service delivery of the sort of electricity supply are in the purview of the professional Town/Physical Planners to supply for efficient distribution of such.

The issue of privatization is to see to an ineptitude operation, administrative bottleneck and mismanagement that characterize the public service delivery but evidences abound in the literature of the inability of the reform to actually effectively carry out the service delivery of electricity in Nigeria. [63], [64], prior to the privatization of electricity were recommending the design and construction of an automatic power changeover Switch which was as a result of incessant power outage.

Since privatization the case of power outage is no difference from the pre-reform of the power sector, however, while most of the writers among others like; [65], [66], [67], [68] and [69], reactions to power outage in Nigeria were technical oriented, little did they put the spatial planning as part of the guiding principle of service delivery of electricity into consideration. The foundation of marrying theory and model (privatization) with the world material realities (spatial relationship) is out rightly out of place, right from the inception as an independent nation, now for any reform or privatization to bridge the gap of ineffective service delivery in Nigeria is seemingly

impossible. As averred by [70] that 'The focus on the human-world correlate – consciousness, discourse, language, power, text, and so on – now seems singularly inappropriate for wrestling with the problems at hand'

Considering the poor state of electricity supply has been attributed to skewed distribution electrical facilities, [71], observed that, if as much as 70% remaining power generation were from the big hydro's sources of Kainji, Jebba and Shiroro power plants, he said, that shows that the delinquent with electricity supply remains in the distribution. This allusion shows that electricity service delivery in Nigeria is not in line with spatial planning strategy.

Unplanned electrical facilities within our urban centers would always stand as a great barrier to the system of power distribution, as averred by, [72], that, the gross poor performance of electricity supply and incessant power outage in Nigeria has been among others, attributed to the problem emanating from the distribution system. Absence of neighbourhood entity to justify the optimum location and allocation of the distributor transformer, in consonance with the threshold population and quantum of their energy consumption is another herculean task, [73], submitted that, in the third world countries, the optimum allocation of transformers has been the great barriers to electricity distribution by the electrical energy provider. As there would be no guarantee of adequate cost recovery being unplanned settlement with growth rate and increase in energy consumption, the procurement cost and the capacity of needed transformer are factors for consideration, [74].

As a developing nation, the experience of power outage has been since yesteryears in Nigeria, the nation had been struggling to meet the demand of electricity supply for the people, attributable reason for this has been the failure to comply with qualitative supply of power infrastructure, [75]. Issue of joblessness, unemployment, poverty and national retrogressive development in all sector could be attributable to the ailing power sector of the nation, [76], opined that, the development of a nation hinges mostly on adequate supply of electricity, as it serves as a virile source of human empowerment for self-engagement, self-reliance and self-development. Giving adequate electricity supply to the people, right from the grass-root of petty trading at home to an industrialized level, even transforming from a small, medium business, to a large business scale, as such, the quantum of the need of electricity supply of a nation hinges on the nation's population with its level of industrial development, [77].

4.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

4.1 Conclusion

In conclusion, the paper submits that, the government sectorial policies, various reforms and privatization models, of the sort of public utilities, pertinent to social welfare of people like electricity supply, which are in the realm of administrative and aspatial planning strategy, must have spatial dimensional transformation that would be able to address the reality of the desirable socioeconomic, acceptability, accessibility, and environmental situation of our urban area and rural setting. As such, sustainable privatisation of electricity service delivery is strongly hinges on symbiotic relationship of aspatial, administrative strategic policy and spatial planning principles to be able to attain the nation's desired development goals especially in uninterrupted supply of electricity to the people.

4.2 Recommendations

This paper drawn upon the information from the relevant articles and publications, found out that, policies and development plan implementations which are termed aspatial planning approach to planning is generally not in collaboration with spatial specifications, and the fact that land use planning, physical planning, and spatial planning approach are not considered at all in the implementation of the nation's strategic policies and development plans, reflect in the poor socioeconomic and infrastructure facility development of the nation. This has also been the situation as regard the privatisation of electricity service delivery of which its effectiveness have to do with equitable distribution of its facilities drawing on adequate and available spatial data and information about the intending users. It therefore becomes imperative as the paper suggests that:

- Development policies and decision making of the sort of privatisation of electricity service delivery should not be independent of spatial planning parameters.
- Comprehensive strategy that will integrate implementation of electrical facilities distribution alongside with spatial specification be embarked upon.
- The foundation of the local, regional, and national land use planning be laid out as a template upon which any policy implementation such as, the like of privatisation of electricity service delivery will effectively take off.
- Disjointed, muddling through, trial-by- error kind of planning and policy implementation the kind of the power reform process be exchanged with carrying out of thorough investigation of the nation's areal situation of things. Embarking on due diligence for better

implementation of any public policy. This was considered in the recent privatisation of electricity service delivery in Nigeria which account for its failure.

- Sustaining privatisation of electricity service delivery is dependent on availability of adequate spatial databank. It is crucial to its effective implementation.
- The stakeholders, professionals, technocrats, and the public participation be part of the policy making and development planning process from the inception, such as privatisation of service delivery of electricity.
- Already traditional rudimentary informal spatial arrangement of our city be updated and upgraded for effective and functional distribution of infrastructure facilities and service delivery of electricity.
- Human centered policy, realistic tendency, and welfare prone should be the fundamental focus of the policy makers and in the course of implementing it's such as public utility like electricity supply.
- The poor condition of electricity service delivery is yet not out rightly out of hand, but need strong determination, government tenacity of purpose and concerted effort of the three tiers of government to embark on comprehensive planning of the whole nation for actualisation of the nation's laudable policies and strategic plans, the like of this power reform.

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