

Nigerian leaders and citizens must be aware of the state of the economy and set measurable goals to achieve a desirable state if the much-promised democratic dividends are to be delivered to the country. Political and public office holders should be assessed by their understanding of the economy's situation and their ability to plan and move the country towards such a desirable state. Discussions around Nigerian development have often been subjective, and when facts are presented, they can be warped to suit certain interests. This trend needs to change for Nigeria to move forward.

The citizens just had another opportunity to effect the necessary change during the 2023 General Elections in February and March 2023 and made their choices. In the elections, thousands of politicians contested for various offices as President, Governors, Members of the Senate and House of Representatives, and State Houses of Assemblies.

Before, during and after the elections, politicians, citizens, businesses and other key stakeholders in Nigeria need to employ robust data and verifiable facts in addressing the country's developmental challenges. While Nigeria has the necessary data for such planning and engagement, some may not be available in an easy-to-understand and readily-usable format.

This databook, therefore, presents a comprehensive list of indicators measuring Nigeria's socioeconomic performance since 1999 at the National, Regional and State levels. It seeks to provide evidence-based inputs into the discussions, policy analysis and target-setting by political office holders, advisers, policymakers, electorates, observers, researchers and businesses. The book is intended to serve as a reference data book and a useful guide for benchmarking and monitoring Nigeria's socioeconomic progress over time.

"Nigeria in Figures – A Socio-Economic Databook" first shows the trend and structure of various national and federal government performance indicators since 1999. Each section in this part provides a background description of the status of the relevant indicators as well as the key developments, policies and challenges surrounding them. For each of these indicators, attempts are made to highlight Nigeria's relative position (rank) among selected comparator countries.

In other parts of the book, available data on the country's six (6) geopolitical zones are presented; and the same is done at the State level. The aim is to equally aid effective decision-making at the sub-national level of government in Nigeria. The presentations in the book are made in simple and attractive charts and illustrations for easy comprehension. In addition to the benchmarking against selected comparator countries, the book contains an insight section that explains the trend and structure of each chart simply and understandably.

To further enhance its utility to decision-makers, the hundreds of indicators presented in the book are aggregated into a performance dashboard for a snapshot of Nigeria's socioeconomic performance since 1999. The databook's key features, therefore, make it unique given that it:

- examines Nigeria's socio-economic performance since 1999;
- brings relevant data from multiple sources and formats together into a single document;
- presents, in a comprehensive manner, data at the National, Regional and State levels;
- describes the developments, challenges and policies of different sectors;
- shows the relative performance of Nigeria against selected comparator countries;
- employs simple and attractive charts and illustrations for clear understanding;
- provides detailed sources and description of relevant data; and
- gives insights on how to interpret the figures and charts.

I hope that you, the reader, will find this book useful in your assessment of the development of our dear country, Nigeria.



Afolabi E. Olowookere, Ph.D. (May, 2023)