



AN APPRAISAL OF PUBLIC ELECTRICITY PERFORMANCE AND
ITS IMPLICATIONS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The goal of this paper is to appraise the performance of public electricity as an index of economic development in Nigeria. The performance of electricity is judged from three perspectives, namely, electricity generation, transmission and distribution to its consumers. Until recently, PHCN was the sole company monopolizing all aspects of electricity supply. Out of 6904.6 mw of electricity produced in Nigeria, only 3362.4 mw representing 48.7% is available to consumers for usage. In order to get users' opinions on performance of public electricity supply, 450 questionnaires were administered on consumers of electricity in three (3) major cities in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria. In each city, 150 questionnaires were given out and only a total of 366 questionnaires representing 81% of the administered questionnaires were properly filled and returned within the specified timeframe. The questionnaires sampled users' opinions on regularity of supply, pattern of distribution, maintenance culture and problems hindering effective performance of the sector in Nigeria. The research revealed that whereas the pattern of electricity distribution is perfect as indicated by 263 respondents representing 72% of the sampled population, the maintenance culture is very poor. A total of 217 respondents representing 59% of the sampled population noted that PHCN does not maintained its facilities which result in epileptic power supply. The research concluded that the way out is to incorporate experienced private investors in the provision and management of electricity supply through public-private-partnership in Nigeria.

Keywords: Performance Measurement, Public Electricity, Economic Development