

PREFACE

This Book embarks on a captivating intellectual journey through the corridors of contemporary Nigeria with the groundbreaking anthology, "Socio-Political and Economic Issues in Contemporary Nigeria: Festschrift in Honor of Professor Christopher Obilikwu Obute, KSM, MON." Nigeria, a nation rich in both human and natural resources, holds a pivotal global position. With a population of 218 million and ranking as the 14th largest exporter of crude oil, the country faces an intricate tapestry of challenges—from sluggish GDP growth to environmental crises, poverty, and corruption.

In this meticulously curated Festschrift, the Department of Economics at Benue State University, Makurdi, pays homage to the esteemed Professor Christopher Obilikwu Obute, a stalwart public servant, teacher, and scholar whose indelible contributions have shaped the trajectory of Nigeria's economic landscape. Through an inspiring career spanning roles in the Benue State Ministry of Finance, University of Jos, Central Bank of Nigeria, and NAL Merchant Bank Plc, Prof. Obute has left an enduring legacy.

As we delve into the heart of this remarkable volume, we are guided by an intricately woven tapestry of chapters, each addressing pivotal developmental, financial, and environmental facets. The anthology serves not only as a tribute to Professor Obute but also as a beacon illuminating critical issues that demand scholarly exploration. From the intricate dance between education, health expenditures, and economic growth to the evaluation of export-led growth strategies, the chapters traverse the landscape of Nigeria's challenges with both depth and breadth. The exploration extends into realms of public finance, agriculture, monetary economics, politics, governance, energy, and environmental sustainability, offering comprehensive insights into the multifaceted dimensions of Nigeria's contemporary issues.

This anthology stands as a testament to the resilience of scholars and their commitment to unraveling the complexities that define Nigeria's journey. It beckons readers to engage with the profound and motivating exploration of topics that shape not only Nigeria's destiny but also contribute to the

global discourse on development. As you turn the pages, be prepared to witness a symphony of ideas, analyses, and solutions presented by a cadre of esteemed researchers. Join the quest for knowledge and enlightenment, and discover how each chapter adds a unique note to the narrative of progress. In the spirit of honoring Professor Obute's legacy, let this Festschrift inspire you to think critically, engage passionately, and contribute meaningfully to the ongoing conversation about Nigeria's future.