

FOREWORD

It is with great pleasure and a deep sense of pride that I write the foreword to *Policies and Development Issues in Nigeria*, a collection of rigorous scholarly works dealing with some of the key economic and developmental challenges facing Nigeria today. This volume reflects not only the dedication of the contributing authors but also the leadership of Professor Simeon Oko Ajegi, whose scholarly rigor and commitment to Nigeria's economic development are evident in this book. As his brother and academic mentor, I have had the privilege of witnessing Professor Ajegi's enviable journey, marked by his commitment to the advancement of knowledge and policy-relevant research. His work has consistently bridged the gap between academia and practical policy formulation, making him an invaluable asset to the Department of Economics, Benue State University in particular and the Nigerian economy at large.

The articles contained in this volume span a range of critical topics such as human capital development, the effects of fuel subsidy removal, the dynamics of exchange rate volatility, and the influence of insecurity on consumer spending, among others. The depth of these studies reflects the comprehensive understanding of Nigeria's economic realities and the urgent need for evidence-based policies to drive sustainable growth. In a nation grappling with complex socio-economic issues, research of this nature provides crucial insights for policymakers, academics, and development practitioners alike. The authors, drawn from diverse academic and research institutions across the country, have engaged these topics with the intellectual rigor and policy relevance that are critical for charting a new course for Nigeria.

As we reflect on the wealth of knowledge compiled in this book, I cannot overstate the importance of research that not only informs but also shapes national discourse. This book is a testament to Professor Ajegi's leadership vision for Nigeria, where economic scholarship directly informs governance and development strategies.

I extend my commendation to the editors, contributors, and especially Professor Simeon Oko Ajegi for their dedication to this important work. Their collective efforts will no doubt provide a lasting

contribution to Nigeria's developmental journey, offering both scholars and policymakers the tools needed to craft informed and impactful policies. It is my hope, that ***Policies and Development Issues in Nigeria*** will inspire sustained research, debate, and action, that will continue to contribute to the realization of Nigeria's vast economic potential.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ode Ojowu', written in a cursive style.

Professor Ode Ojowu

Abuja, Nigeria