

POLITICAL ECONOMY OF CONSTITUENCY PROJECTS IN IMO STATE (2011- 2015)

KALU, Peters and CHIKWE, Joy Amarachi

Department of Public Administration, Abia State Polytechnic, Aba
iokalupeters@yahoo.com

Abstract

This work examines House of Representatives (HoR) and Constituency Projects implementation in Imo State 2011-2015. This has become necessary as constituency projects implementation which was enacted to ensure minimum Federal presence in each constituency in terms of resources and infrastructure allocation in other to foster development seems not to have made the desired impact. The constituency project is marred with problems of evaluation, accountability, excessive interferences by Representatives, lack of objectives, poor or noneeds assessment of constituency, non-monitoring of projects. Accordingly, this paper adopted the survey research method while descriptive statistics was used for data presentation and analysis. The Basic needs theory propounded by International Labour Organization in 1976 was used as the theoretical framework of the study. The study in its findings saw that there is excessive HoR interferences in the accomplishment of constituency projects and this seriously hampers satisfactory implementation and recommend that there should be proper evaluation, monitoring and accountability such that constituency projects are realized most appropriately.

Keywords: Constituency, House of Representatives, project, federal presence

1. Introduction

This work examines the legislative arm of government and how their efforts impact the people they represent through the instrumentality of constituency project. This includes to find out the implementation, management etc of constituency projects in Nigeria with specific reference to Imo state whose high population density is expected to be positively impacted upon by such projects.

The master philosopher Aristotle in his inimitable way according to Igwe (2005) averred that the state exist for public goods and continues to exist for the greater good of humanity. This view is shared by Shively (2005) who described public good as not only the reason state exists but also see public good as something that benefits all members of the community but no one can be prevented from using; every member of the community can enjoy the benefits of it whether that person has helped to pay for it or not. The above view has been corroborated in (Gaubu 2007, Hume 2011, and Fukuyama 2012). Indeed, democracy gives the people opportunity to determine how they are governed and as such it naturally allows the electorate and the mass of the people to look up to the government for the dividends democracy.

The Nigerian parliament which is officially known as the National Assembly consisting of two chambers of the Senate and House of Representatives perform similar functions like any other parliament in the world which is basically representing the people and making law for good governance in the overall interest of those they represent. Part of the demands by the electorate is for their representatives in parliament to bring social infrastructure to their constituency and in a bid to meet the yearnings of their constituents they respond with “constituency project” which is expected as it were, to attract the much needed federal presence in the area.

According to Udefuna, Jumare and Adebayo (2013), since the inception of constituency project in Nigeria there have been misconceptions, misinterpretations and misjudgment of the constituency project and its attendant administration. However, Iredia (2016) posits that the argument that legislators must tinker with the appropriation bill (budget) during approval process in order to insert what they call constituency projects makes it difficult to discern the exact meaning of the term constituency project. Nevertheless, it is used to mean a project in any community that is nominated into budget by a particular legislator usually in his own constituency.

1.1 Statement of Problem

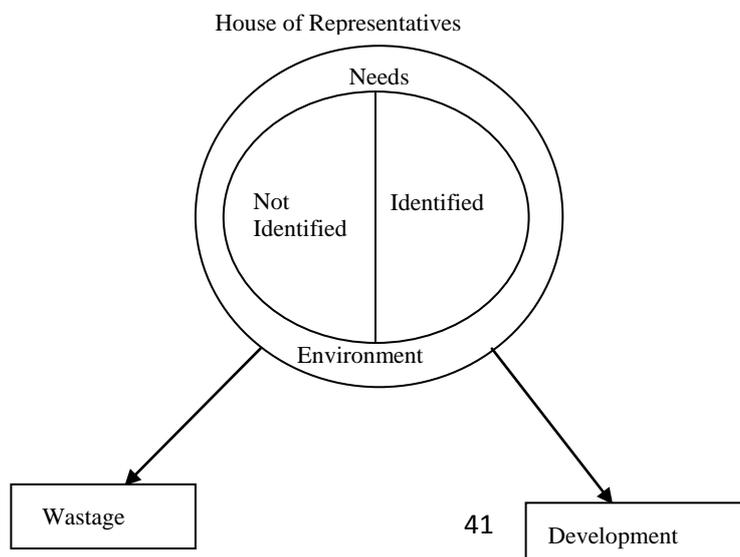
Several of such constituency projects in Nigeria have ended as failed projects in varying degrees such as uncompleted, malfunctioning, unsustainable projects. In some cases, contracts are inflated, there are unspecified project locations including supply of equipment/materials to uncompleted structure or even nonexistent structures as well as non-execution of projects, poor verification, monitoring and evaluation of implementation standards. This situation has resulted in the citizens or constituents not being aware of any such project or its budgetary provision thus having the constituency projects shrouded in secrecy. This further shows that there is a pervasive lack of transparency that conspires to keep citizens in the dark as to what their representatives do on their behalf.

1.2 Theoretical Framework

Any study dealing with complex phenomenon need to organize its subject matter in such a way that it becomes possible to identify and classify the elements of the research which is being studied. The basic needs theory propounded by International Labour Organization in 1976 is used as the theoretical base because it produces a conceptual body which allows the research to place or identify basic needs of the people. The basic need theory helps to give the House of Representative a better insight as to what is needed within their constituency in order to ensure effectiveness and efficiency in carrying out implementation of Federal Government projects. If the principle guiding this theory is strictly adhered to in carrying out projects, it will drastically reduce wastage, failure of project implementation, abandoned projects will reduce and it will enhance development in the various constituencies in Imo state and Nigeria at large.

Fig. 1 Conceptual Framework of the Basic Needs Theory

Source: International Labour Organization



2. Review of Related Literature

2.1 Concept of the Legislature

A legislature according to Wikipedia (2016) is a deliberative assembly with the authority to make laws for a political entity such as a country or city. Legislatures form important parts of most government; in the separation of powers model, they are often contrasted with the executive and judicial branches of government. It was also stated that legislatures observe and steer governing actions and usually have exclusive authority to amend the budget(s) involved in the process. Okereke (1993), is of the view that the legislature is that organ of government whose responsibility it is to make laws. He detailed that the importance of the legislature can be fully appreciated, if being reminded that no kind of government can rule properly unless there are defined rules or laws to which members of the society are subjected to.

Further, Anamgba (2007:310) stated that legislature is an organ of government that makes laws made up of the representatives of the people. In addition, representatives is that group of people, that has the power to make and change existing laws and this must be a democratically elected legislature.

2.2 The Nature of the Federal House of Representative

According to the free encyclopedia, House of Representative is the lower house of many national and state legislatures. In the view of Orimogunje, Olusesan, Olugbenga (2015), the House of Representatives is the lower house of the Nigeria's bicameral National Assembly while the Senate is the upper chamber. The current House of Representative is formed following elections held in April 2015, having a total of 360 members who are elected in single member constituencies using the simple majority system. Members serve a four year term. The speaker of the House of Representatives is the presiding officer of the House.

2.3 Concept of Constituency Project

Constituency project according to the Citizen (2013) implies project that maybe executed by the central or national government in exchange for a legislators support on key issues. Orimoguje (2015), stated that constituency project are not peculiar to Nigeria. In fact, they are now a growing phenomenon in some developing nations, where such projects are generally referred to as the "Constituency Development Funds" (CDFs). Although, there are different models of the CDFs, some common features identifiable with most constituency project or CDFs are as follows:

1. The constituency project sought to be carried out or implemented as usually identified by the legislators representing the host constituency, acting in the parliament, or in a CDF committee of his constituency.
2. The project is designed, funded and executed, with some participation or collaboration of the legislator in the process.
3. The project is funded directly from the budget of the central or state government.
4. The project is usually identified with the legislator as his/her constituency project. Orimoguje(2015) is of the view that constituency project represent an obvious departure from the traditional constitutional role of the legislature under the doctrine of separation of powers and usurpation of the role of the executive by the legislature. CDFs is credited with the following benefits:
 - a. The provision of infrastructure, promptly without prolonged bureaucratic red-tape formality.
 - b. The active involvement of the constituents in the identification of developmental project for implementation in their constituency.
 - c. Better articulation and utmost satisfaction of the pressing needs of the constituency.
 - d. The creation of opportunity for elected representatives to directly participate in the alleviation of the challenges or problems faced by their constituents.

Orimoguje (2015) further stated that constituency project is any project that is conceived, designed or executed within a legislative constituency with the collaboration, input or influence of the legislator(s) representing that particular constituency in the legislature and such project are however funded from the national or state budget.

According to Dogara (2016) constituency project in Nigeria refers to developmental project sited in the constituencies of honorable members of the State House of Assembly, members of the HoR or senators by various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of government as appropriated in the budget of the federation or state.

“In Nigeria, the phenomenon of constituency project took root at the dawn of the Fourth Republic, with the quest by Nigeria legislators for more equitable distribution of resources to their constituencies as dividends of democracy. Largely, the operation of constituency project in Nigeria appears to be shrouded in bureaucratic secrecy. The concept of constituency project has from its inception in Nigeria been controversial, several disputes have occurred between the executive and the legislative arm of government on the issue of inclusion of such project in the budgets. Indeed on some occasions, budgets were delayed and when appropriation bills were eventually passed

into law, there were increased differences between the estimates submitted by the executive and the amount eventually approved by the legislatures as the budget. The increase in such budgetary estimates was in several instances due to the accommodation or the inclusion of constituency project (which has been referred to as budget padding). So far, it has been estimated that a total of ₦900 billion has been appropriated for legislators constituency projects at the National Assembly from 2004-2013". (Orimogunje, 2015)

2.4 Constituency Project and Separation of Powers

According to Nwanegbo (2014), separation of power is a model under which a state is divided into branches, with each having separate and independent powers and areas of responsibilities, such that no branch is more powerful than the others. This division is usually among the executive, legislature and judiciary. With the end of the third military interregnum in 1979, the country began a new phase of political history with the introduction of the presidential system of government which is patterned after that of the United States with three main organs viz; the legislature, the executives and the judiciary. In this vein, the legislature was constitutionally vested with the power of law making for the good of the Federal Republic and to check the other arms of government in order to avoid misuse and abuse of power, while implementing laws and policies for the good and stability of the nation.

Aziken (2016) notes that the whole essence of the system is to checkmate corruption in the polity and promote development of the country in general. Further, Aziken (2016) points out that the National Assembly is saddled with many functions according to the 1999 constitution. However, two of these are germane to the sustenance of democratic governance and effective checks and balances; these include lawmaking and oversight functions. The legislature being the very representatives of the people are not just there to make laws but also to act as the watchdog on behalf of the people. The oversight functions of the National Assembly in this regard is the actual invocation of the constitution or putting the constitution at work in order to checkmate or control the exercise of constitutional power of the other organs of government, especially the executive so as to make it responsive, accountable and transparent to the electorate through the National Assembly who are the representatives of the people in the discharge of their duty or assignments. Some of the essence of checks and balances are to prevent corruption, inefficiency and totalitarianism. According to Ayoada et al (2014), the philosophy behind the separation of power is that:

“Concentration of government power in the hands of one individual is the very definition of dictatorship and absolute powers by its very nature is arbitrary, capricious and despotic. Limited government therefore demands that the organization of government should be based on some concept of structure whereby, the functions of law making, execution and adjudication are vested in separate agencies, operating with separate personnel and procedure.”

According to the Citizen (2013), constituency projects may serve as the purpose of showcasing legislators as a performer capable of bringing home the federal bacon. Under the 1999 constitution the executive, symbolized by the president, the state governors and local government chairman are exclusively responsible for policy formation, policy implementation, including the execution of the provision of the laws, and the general administration of the country. Since the legislature is also vested with the powers to vet and monitor the implementation, including the execution of the provisions of the law, and the general administration of the country. But since the legislature is also vested with the powers to vet and monitor the implementation of projects and programmes as well as advice, consult and liaise with the executive branch in the course of carrying out their functions. It follows logically that stable and smooth administration of the country depends critically on legislature-executive accord and cooperation. It could be further deduced that the failure of constituency project in Nigeria has been traced to the none or lack of monitoring from the executive, that the constituency projects are not being earnestly done is a failure of duty in the part of both the executive and the legislative branches of government. The point must be made that if everyone in government does his duty in accordance with the oath of office, there would be no need for legislators to demand special financial outlay to implement projects in their respective constituencies nor would there be a justification to personally collect the money or as the case may be directly seek to execute such projects.

2.5 Constituency Project and Accountability

According to Ayoade et al (2015), corruption is a betrayal of trust because it involves using public resources for personal aggrandizement, rather than for the overall good of all citizens. Although it has always been argued that the long era of military rule in Nigeria and the fact that the legislative arm of government was not functional during those period led to the promotion of the culture of corruption in the country, the 1999 constitution sufficiently empowers the National Assembly to deal head-on with the monster-corruption. Section 88(2b) of the Nigerian 1999 Constitution defined the oversight function of the National

Assembly. It explains that these powers should be used for the purpose of enabling the National Assembly to expose cases of corruption, inefficiency or waste in the execution of laws within its legislative competence and in the disbursement and administration of funds appropriated by the National Assembly. Apart from this, section 85, 89, 128, 129 and 143 of the 1999 constitution all equip the National Assembly with the weapon to effectively checkmate corruption in Nigeria. Ayoade further quoted a particular legal maxim that “he who comes to equity must come with clean hands”.

Having been equipped with such powers, the National Assembly is expected to uphold the highest level of moral standard, efficiency, accountability and leadership by example. Maintaining this level of morality is the only way they can gain the respect of the public and other arms of government which they oversee that however, seems to be to the contrary. Ayoade (2014) opines that the oversight function bequeathed to it has been turned to a self-seeking venture. The growing trend has been that the National Assembly since inception in 1999 has been involved in law making and passing of several bills but it has continued to fail in the area of oversight functions which is the main aspect of their functions which will affect the lives of the people who they represent. While it has tried in exposing some high level corrupt practices in the executive and its agencies, its internal conduct and perennial allegations of corrupt practices against its members is very worrisome and calls for national concern.

Ojo in Ayoade et al (2014), observed that fourteen years of constituency protects in Nigeria, leave little proof to match the billions allocated. Yet the demand for the money is as strident as ever and has played into the hands of an executive branch exasperated by the legislative branch of government. The statement by a one-time senate president in Nigeria Adolphus Wabara betrays what a psychologist would call a Freudian slip;

“Most of us came into the National Assembly with very high expectations. It is an investment really to come into the National Assembly. When we go around campaigning and asking for votes, we don’t get these votes free. You spend some money. Most of us even sold houses”.

The citizen (2013) stated that, consequently, ₦100 billion was factored into the 2013 budget for constituency protects. Much likely, such big money is up for sharing every year by a handful of men and women, the reason politics is the biggest money spinner in town. More

so, when the benefactor is supposedly constitutionally charged with ensuring a judicious application of these monies.

2.6 Expediency of Constituency Project

Orimogunje (2015:190), notes that constituency project seems to have become the *raison d'être* for the quest of equitable delivery of the dividend of democracy and this has reflected in the concern for the public good. Udefuna et al in Orimogunje(2015) argue that such legislative constituency projects are;

“a move towards the devolution of resources and development...bring about even development and encourage popular participation in politics”.

This may well be so in theory. However, in reality, it is left to be seen any meaningful contribution to the development that might be made to the citizens when the only visible legislative constituency projects appear to be of pedestrian nature, such as installation of boreholes, distribution of motorcycles to constituents, refurbishing of some existing classroom infrastructures etc. Most of such projects have no bearing to the genuine efforts towards industrialization or empowerment of the masses with a view towards institutionalization of meaningful and sustainable development. (Orimogunje, 2015).

2.7 Implementation of Constituency Projects

Implementation according to Kalu (2014:138) is the stage where all the planned activities are put into action and a process of interaction between the setting of goals and the actions geared towards achieving them. Before the implementation of a project, the implementers (project committee or execution) should identify their strengths and weaknesses (internal forces), opportunities and threats (external forces).

Furthermore Kalu (2014) states that the strengths and opportunities are positive forces that should be explained to efficiently implement a project. The weaknesses and threats are hindrances that can hamper project implementation. The implementers should ensure that they devise means of overcoming them. To that extent, monitoring is important at the implementation phase to ensure that the project is implemented according to the schedule. This is a continuous process that should be put in place before project implementation starts. As such, the monitoring activities should appear on the work plan and should involve all stakeholders.

However, Neil (2008) in Kalu (2014: 138) has pointed out that when implementation of the project is not on target or on schedule, there is a need for the project managers to ask themselves and answer the question, “How best do we get there”? In other words, project managers should quickly re-evaluate, reassess and get redirected so as to get back on course and on track and ultimately arrive at project termination on schedule.

Premium Times (2016) report quotes KabiruTuraki, the Cabinet Minister in charge of Special Duties and Intergovernmental Affairs as saying that in Nigeria there are about 114 agencies involved in the execution of constituency project as of 2013. The Minister noted that the execution of the projects was monitored by ministry officials chosen by the National Assembly to ensure compliance with set standards. He further stated that the involvement of the ministry in monitoring the implementation of projects carried out by other Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) were to ensure transparency in execution. He further opined that monitoring had the responsibility of ensuring that the quality of the projects executed by MDAs not only meet standard but also ensure that government was not short changed.

2.8 Ownership of Constituency Project

The concept of legislative projects itself contains the seed of self-interest or political self-preservation of the political elite, occupying legislative position. Some of the legislators tend to directly or indirectly ascribe the “ownership” of such projects to themselves, for electoral advantages especially during an electioneering period. This obviously confers some electoral mileage on such legislators, over their political opponents, who may not have had any opportunity of being credited with, any constituency project. (Orimogunje, 2015).

Once constituency projects are completed, there is scarcely any handing over protocol where ownership is transferred to the local community. In a few cases, these projects are commissioned by the legislators and that is the lasts of it. These projects thus become isolated intervention efforts with no clear ownership. Project ownership ensures that project initiative come to fruition. Whatever framework that is adopted, all stakeholders including the legislators, MDAs at the federal level, states and local government should ensure that maintenance of constituency projects is taken over by the states, local governments and the

community to ensure continuity and value for money. This should be so even if the federal government is involved in budgetary support for this initiative. (Dogara, 2016).

2.10 Funding of Constituency Projects

According to Zyl (2016), constituency projects funds are arranged from central government directly to electoral constituencies for local infrastructure projects. This is usually achieved through implementation of budget. In the view of Gaskia (2016) the budgetary process in Nigeria since 1999, at all levels based on the envelop system has always been a work of “guesstimation” and at best based on Pseudo-estimates. A sum of money is arbitrarily allocated to various sectors and budget heads, and pseudo planners then in turn arbitrarily sub allocate these to different line items and subheads. The only empirical input into all of these is the estimation of revenue accruable to the federation each year, and the share of it going to the federal government in accordance with the revenue allocation formula.

Gaskia (2016) further noted that the annual budget projections including the projections in the instruments of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and the Medium Term Sectoral Strategies (MTSS) are not based on any scientific or systematic national development strategic planning framework, nor are they informed by any intelligent process of needs assessment and identification of priorities over the short (annual), medium (MTEE/MTSS) and long (5 years development plans) terms. Without a national framework for strategic national development planning, a national development strategic and operational implementation plan, or the entire structuring, organization, systems and processes of government oriented towards developing and implementing such plans, the annual budgetary process simply becomes an annual ritual of arbitrary allocations according to the respective whims and caprices of those responsible for preparing, enacting and implementing the budget. It is a process that allows for not only chaos, but also serial padding. In fact, it is safe to conclude that in the sense of the absence of strategic, planning, all our budgets have been padded budgets in the broader sense. Otherwise how can we explain the scale of conception and treasury looting? How can we explain the scale and scope of abandoned projects in the midst of a huge infrastructure deficit?

2.11 Evaluation of Constituency Project

Project evaluation according to Badom (2016:4) is a process of reviewing and reflecting on what has happened or what has been done by who, on a project with the aim of ascertaining

the extent to which the expected outcome or intended impacts have been met. It helps to discover the strengths and weaknesses, the success and failure, whether the project was worth the cost and efforts involved, and the lesson learnt is used in the design and planning of future project.

In the view of Dogara (2016) there is palpable absence of objective monitoring, control and evaluation in the delivery and management of constituency projects in Nigeria. The emphasis, it would appear, is on yearly allocation for additional newer projects with little tracking of the performance of previous ones. If we put in place an effective monitoring system, this will ensure that constituency projects implementation proceed as anticipated. Modification or further monetary allocation to projects will then be on the basis of identified need. Infact, there are many instances where majority of projects initiated where never fully completed, employing that the intended derivable benefits from these projects were never actually, attained. In addition, if the evaluation and monitoring aspects of constituency intervention projects are strengthened it will reduce the scourge of thousands of abandoned projects in Nigeria.

“Effective monitoring and evaluation of awarded projects eliminates the opportunity for corruption, the use of substandard products, insures the durability of projects structures, enhances citizens trust in government and also safeguards innocent lives from untimely death and needless injury”.

According to Kalu (2014:138) monitoring is also important to ensure that activities are implemented as planned. This helps the implementers to measure how well they are achieving their targets. This is based on the understanding that the process through which a project is implemented has a lot of effect on its use, operation and maintenance.

3. Methodology

The descriptive design specifically survey method serves as the research design while attention focused on Aboh Mbaise/Ngor Okpalafederal constituency comprising of the entire AbohMbaise local government area (195’652) and NgorOkpala local government area (159’932)located in the eastern part of Nigeria, this gives an aggregate constituency population of three hundred and fifty five thousand, five hundred and eighty four (355’584). These figures are according to the 2006 population census figures.

Table 1

Local Government Area	Population
AbohMbaise	195'652
NgorOkpala	159'932
Total	355'584

Source: National Population Commission 2006

Apart from secondary sources of data, primary data elicited from structured questionnaire were used. The questionnaire comprised of two sections, one dealing with demographic composition of respondents while the other section deals with questions related to the study. Similarly, the sample size of this study was determined using the Taro Yamane formula. As a result of accessibility and proximity, the use of convenience sampling method, anon-probability sampling technique became inevitable while the validity of the instrument of data collection was determined at face validity by experts in statistics department of Abia State Polytechnic Aba. The test retest method was used to test the instrument for reliability. The data was analyzed using descriptive statistics while chi-square was used for test of hypotheses.

A total of four hundred (400) questionnaire were administered and three hundred and eighty six (386) were completed and returned. The demographic characterization is as shown in table 2:

Table 2

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	249	64.51%
Female	137	35.49%
Total	386	100%

Source: Field survey, 2016

3.2 Test of Hypothesis

Hypothesis 1

H₀: Federal government project through the House of Representatives have impacted development in AbohMbaise/NgorOkpala constituency.

Table 3

Option	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Neutral	Total
AbohMbaise	115	38	15	51	3	222
NgorOkpala	87	23	37	12	5	164
Total	202	61	52	63	8	386

Source: Field survey, 2016

$$e_{11} = \frac{222 \times 202}{386} = 116$$

$$e_{12} = \frac{222 \times 61}{386} = 35$$

$$e_{13} = \frac{222 \times 52}{386} = 30$$

$$e_{14} = \frac{222 \times 63}{386} = 36$$

$$e_{15} = \frac{222 \times 8}{386} = 5$$

$$e_{21} = \frac{164 \times 202}{386} = 86$$

$$e_{22} = \frac{164 \times 61}{386} = 26$$

$$e_{23} = \frac{164 \times 52}{386} = 22$$

$$e_{24} = \frac{164 \times 63}{386} = 27$$

O _{ij}	E _{ij}	O _{ij} - E _{ij}	$\frac{(O_{ij} - E_{ij})^2}{E_{ij}}$
115	116	-1	0.009
38	35	3	0.257
15	30	-15	7.5
51	36	15	6.25

3	5	-2	0.8
87	86	1	0.012
23	26	-3	0.346
37	22	15	10.227
12	27	-15	8.333
5	3	2	1.333
386	386	0	35.067

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Degree of freedom} &= (r - 1) (c - 1) \\ &= (2-1) (5-1) \\ &= 1 \times 4 \\ &= 4 \end{aligned}$$

Hence at 95% level of significance $\chi^2_{0.95, 4} = 0.710721$
 $\chi^2_{0.95, 4} = 0.711$

Decision

Since χ^2_{cal} at 35.067 > χ^2_{tab} 0.711 accept the alternative hypothesis and accordingly say that federal government project through the house of Representative have not impacted development in AbohMbaise/NgorOkpala constituency.

Hypothesis2

H_0 : Accountability and poor evaluation of federal government projects in AbohMbaise/NgorOkpala hinder sound implementation of project.

Table 4

Option	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Neutral	Total
AbohMbaise	29	21	33	97	-	180
NgorOkpala	23	17	53	113	-	206
Total	52	38	86	210	-	386

Source: Field survey, 2016

$$e_{11} = \frac{180 \times 202}{386} = 24$$

$$e_{12} = \frac{180 \times 38}{386} = 18$$

$$e_{13} = \frac{180 \times 86}{386} = 40$$

$$e_{14} = \frac{180 \times 210}{386} = 98$$

$$e_{21} = \frac{206 \times 52}{386} = 28$$

$$e_{22} = \frac{206 \times 38}{386} = 20$$

$$e_{23} = \frac{206 \times 86}{386} = 46$$

$$e_{24} = \frac{206 \times 210}{386} = 112$$

O_{ij}	E_{ij}	O_{ij} - E_{ij}	$\frac{(O_{ij} - E_{ij})^2}{E_{ij}}$
29	24	5	1.042
21	18	3	0.5
23	40	-17	7.225
97	98	-1	0.010
23	28	-5	0.893
27	20	7	2.45
53	46	7	1.065
113	112	1	0.009
386	386	0	13.194

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Degree of freedom} &= (r - 1)(c - 1) \\ &= (2-1)(4-1) \\ &= 1 \times 3 \\ &= 3 \end{aligned}$$

Hence at 95% level of significance $\chi^2_{0.95, 3} = 0.351846$
 $\chi^2_{0.95, 3} = 0.352$

Decision

Since χ^2_{cal} at 13.194 > χ^2_{tab} 0.352 accept the alternative hypothesis and accordingly say that accountability of fund and evaluation of federal government project in AbohMbaise/NgorOkpala constituency does not hinder sound implementation of project.

Hypothesis 3

H₀: House of representative excessive interference of federal government project in AbohMbaise/NgorOkpala constituency will enhance development.

Table 5

Option	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Neutral	Total
AbohMbaise	24	23	41	110	6	204
NgorOkpala	28	30	21	95	8	182
Total	52	53	62	205	14	386

Source: field survey, 2016

$$e_{11} = \frac{204 \times 52}{386} = 27$$

$$e_{12} = \frac{204 \times 53}{386} = 28$$

$$e_{13} = \frac{204 \times 62}{386} = 33$$

$$e_{14} = \frac{204 \times 205}{386} = 108$$

$$e_{25} = \frac{204 \times 14}{386} = 7$$

$$e_{21} = \frac{182 \times 52}{386} = 25$$

$$e_{22} = \frac{182 \times 53}{386} = 25$$

$$e_{23} = \frac{182 \times 62}{386} = 29$$

$$e_{24} = \frac{182 \times 205}{386} = 97$$

$$e_{25} = \frac{182 \times 14}{386} = 7$$

O_{ij}	E_{ij}	$O_{ij} - E_{ij}$	$\frac{(O_{ij} - E_{ij})^2}{E_{ij}}$
24	27	-3	0.333
23	28	-5	0.893
41	33	8	1.939
110	108	2	0.037
6	7	-1	0.143
28	25	3	0.36
30	25	5	1
21	29	-8	2.207
95	97	-2	0.041
8	7	1	0.143
386	386	0	7.096

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Degree of freedom} &= (r - 1)(c - 1) \\ &= (2-1)(5-1) \\ &= 1 \times 4 \\ &= 4 \end{aligned}$$

Hence at 95% level of significance $\chi^2_{0.95, 4} = 0.71072$
 $\chi^2_{0.95, 4} = 0.711$

Decision

Since χ^2_{cal} at 7.096 > χ^2_{tab} 0.711 accept the alternative hypothesis and accordingly say that House of Representative excessive interference on federal government project in AbohMbaise/NgorOkpala constituency will not enhance development.

4. Summary of Findings

Based on the hypothesis tested above, the following were discovered:

1. Federal government project enacted through the House of Representatives with respect to constituency projects have not impacted development in AbohMbaise/NgorOkpalafederal constituency.

2. Accountability of fund and evaluation of federal government projects in AbohMbaise/NgorOkpalafederal constituency does not hinder implementation of projects.
3. House of representative's excessive interference on Federal government projects in AbohMbaise/NgorOkpaladoes not enhance development.

4.1 Conclusion

House of Representatives and constituency projects implementation in Imo state: 2011-2015 has been appraised and the problem that hinders sound implementation of constituency projects have been identified. It is evident that part of the problem of constituency projects in Abo Mbaise/Ngo Okpala federal constituency is that there has been lack of consultation with constituents, comprising projects from specified eligible categories to be under taken on a year to year basis such as development, rehabilitation and maintenance of small scale community development (physical and social infrastructure), economic enablement, welfare, emergency need and social housing. Furthermore, it has been a mirage ensuring proper monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of projects being undertaken under the constituency fund, if this trend is reversed, it will certainly ensure transparency, probity and guarantee the use of taxpayers' money in making the business of law making more effective and efficient.

4.2 Recommendations

This work has identified some of the factors that hinder constituency projects implementation and accordingly recommend the following:

1. There should be proper measure of accountability of funds for projects in AbohMbaise/NgorOkpalafederal constituency.
2. The materials used in constituency project should be of high quality standard.
3. There should be clear objectives of federal government projects in AbohMbaise/NgorOkpala constituency.
4. There should be monitoring and reassessment of project so as to avoid abandoned project in the constituency and ensure that the project specifications are followed.
5. There should be proper evaluation of federal government projects in AbohMbaise/NgorOkpalafederal constituency.
6. House of Representatives members should conduct needs assessment to identify the needs of their constituency before embarking on constituency project.

7. House of Representatives should limit their involvement by reducing their interferences on constituency project implementation.

References

- Abbas, J. (2016). Constituency project; Nigerians task N/Assembly on monitoring. www.dailytrust.com.ng. (Accessed 02/09/2016).
- Akioye, S. (2014). Much ado about constituency project. <http://thenationonline.net>. (Accessed 30/08/16).
- Nwanegbo, C. Jaja (2014) 'the legislature in Anambra state' in *The legislature and governance in Nigeria Vol 1: A Festschrift for Emeritus Professor John A. A. Ayoade*. Ojo, E. and Omofalo, J. S. (Ed). Ibadan: John Archers publishers Ltd.
- Aziken, E. (2016). Constituency conflict, the controversy of constituency project. www.vanguardngr.com/2016/07. (Accessed 06/09/16).
- Badom, L. N. G. (2016). "Project monitory and evaluation. A critical factor in budget implementation, infrastructure, development and sustainability." Makurdi: *Nigerian Institute of quantity surveyor's National workshop*. July.
- CambridgeDictionary(2016) Dictionary Cambridge.org/dictionary/English/development. (Accessed 13/10.16).
- Dogara, Y. (2016). Why Federal government must implement constituency project. www.orderpaper.ng. (Accessed 29/08/16).
- Federal Constituency Project (2015). www.tracka.com. (Accessed 02/09/16).
- Fukuyama, Francis (2012)*The Origins of Political Order: From PrehumanTimes to the French Revolution*. London: Profile Books Ltd.
- Gaskia, J. (2016). Budget padding, constituency projects, corruption and the trouble with Nigeria's ruling elite. www.saharareporters.com. (Accessed 11/09/16).
- Gaub, O.P. (2007)*An Introduction to Political Theory*. Delhi: Macmillan India Ltd.
- Hume, David (2011)*The Essential Philosophical Works*. London: Wordsworth Editions Limited.
- Joshua, S. and Oni, S. (2014). "The Nigerian House of Representatives corruption, (1999-2011)." *Mediterranean journal of social science*. Vol. 5(2). Pg 561-567. January.
- Kalu, P. (2014). *Matrixes of Development: Introduction to the study of Development Administration*. Aba: Cheedal global prints Ltd.

Njoku, R. (2008). *Administrative Management: A contemporary study on theories of administration and management*. Aba: Cheedal global prints Ltd.

Obasi,Igwe (2005) *Politics and Globe Dictionary*. Aba: Eagle Publishers

Omonu, Y. (2016). Budget padding: Between project and pork barrel. <http://leadership.ng/features/544565>. (Accessed 11/09/16).

Orimogunje, O.O. (2015) “Legislative Constituency project in Nigeria: A matter of constitutionality or political expediency?” Kano: *Journal of law, policy and globalization*. Vol14. Pg 180-193.

Shively, Philips (2005) *Power and Choice: An Introduction to Political Science*. New York: McGraw Hill

Turaki, K. (2014). *114 Agencies involved in execution of 3’299 constituency projects*. Minister; Abuja: premium times.

Udefuna, P. N.; Jumare, F. and Adebayo, F. O. (2013). “Legislature constituency project in Nigeria: Implication for National development.” *Mediterranean journal of social science*. Vol.4(6). Pg 647-653. July.

Zyl, V. A. (2016). What is wrong with the constituency development funds? www.internationalbudget.org. (Accessed 18/10/16).

Appendix 1

The state of Federal constituency project in Nigeria

Names of state tracked	No of project	Completed	On going	Not done
Niger State	33	4	5	24
Anambra State	33	15	14	4
Ogun State	29	9	2	18
Gombe State	33	14	0	19
Delta State	30	12	9	9
Edo State	18	5	2	11
Jigawa State	29	19	2	8
Kebbi State	32	18	4	11
Kogi State	31	8	3	20
Cross River State	24	5	7	12
Imo State	29	8	9	12
Ondo State	33	14	3	16
Kano State	39	4	3	32
Oyo State	26	7	7	12
Kaduna State	17	3	7	7
Total	436	145	77	215

Source: Budget/Bracka 2015

Appendix 2

Ongoing Project for theyear 2016

MINISTRY	AGENCY	PROJECT TITLES	AMOUNT	OBSERVATION
Niger Delta	Niger Delta	Construction of Mbaise ring road, Imo State	400m	Project is ongoing but was last worked on earlier 2015
Niger Delta	Niger Delta	Construction of Okpala-Igwurita road, Imo State	100m	Project is ongoing but was last worked on earlier 2015
Niger Delta	Niger Delta	Construction of cassava processing facility Mbutu, AbohMbaise, Imo State	20m	Project site is far from the residents of the community, community resident barely know about product
Power	TCN	132KVA/33 substation at Ibeju/AmaohuruNguru, Imo State	90m	There were no work on ground but site engineer confirmed that it stop due to fund
Power	TCN	Procurement and installation of 1 x 15 MVA/33/ 11KVA transformers and construction of injection subsection at OnichaEzinihitte, Imo State	60m	Project site is covered with grass thereby seeming like an abandoned project
Youth	Youth	Furnishing of youth development central AbohMbaise, Imo State	20m	Building has been completed but equipments for operations are yet to be put in place
Science	Naseni	Construction of Agricultural machine development institute, Mbaise	80m	Work in progress
Power	Rea	Completion of rural electrification of Obohia and Oru Autonomous communitysAhiazuMbaise, Imo State	25m	Oru autonomous community have been electrified while Obohia autonomous community is just been electrified
Water	Airbag	Study for the control of Umulolo-OkorokaUmuokisi erosion/flood control project, NguruNwenkwo, AbohMbaise, Imo State	30m	Work is just starting as contractors and engineers are just arriving project site

Source: Budget/Tracka 2016

Appendix 3

Completed/Ongoing Project for the year 2015

MINISTRY	AGENCY	PROJECT TITLES	AMOUNT	OBSERVATION
Science	Naseni	Liability for the Nodal expansion for Naseruprogramme at Ahiara, AhiazuMbaise, Imo State	30m	Road has been completed and fully in use.
Water	Airbda	Completion of the reconstruction of chemistry and biology laboratory at St. Patrick Secondary School, OgbeAhiara, Imo State	8m	Laboratory is fully renovated and in full operation
Water	Airbda	Completion of Rehabilitation of father welsh road Emekuku, Owerri North, Imo State	30m	Road is tarred but there is a little portion of road that has a little potholes.
Water	Airbda	Completion of construction of solar powered borehole at St. Patrick's Secondary School OgbeAhiara, Imo State	7m	The bore hole is completed
Agric	NrcilUmudike	Completion of construction of cassava processing centre at Okwuabala, Orlu, Imo State	20m	The centre is completed but yet to be in use meanwhile road leading to project is bad. But government will soon take actions.
Information	Heartland F.M Owerri	Completion and furnishing of office complex	70m	Completed and in full operation
Police formation	Police formation	Completion of construction of Mbutu police Station	25m	Project has been completed
Trade	Smedan	Construction of modern daily market at Arondizuogu in Ideato North Federal constituency, Imo State	40m	It is quite far from where the community residents live
Trade	Smedan	Construction of primary health care centre at IkpezeIdeato North Federal Constituency of Imo State	20m	Project is completed but yet to be in use

Water	Airbda	Comprehensive renovation of six classroom block at group school, MbutuNworie, AbohMbaise, Imo State	30	Stated in the project was a six block classroom but visibly it is a five block classroom
-------	--------	---	----	--

Source: Budget/Tracka 2016

Appendix 4

Not Done Projects for 2015

MINISTRY	AGENCY	PROJECT TITLES	AMOUNT	OBSERVATION
Environmental	Environment	Procurement and installation of equipment at waste recycling facility at Owerri, Imo State	80m	Project location unknown
Information		Liability for Brix Development for capacity training for Imo State Journalists	35m	Questions were asked regard the provision for the training of journalist but proved abortive
Trade	Smedan	Supply of KekeNapep for Economic empowerment programme in Orlu/Orsu/Oru East federal constituency Imo State	60m	Project location is unknown
Water	Airbdon	Construction of 500KVA transformer substations for Owerri federal constituency Imo State	20m	Project location is unknown
Water	Airbdon	Construction of solar boreholes for Owerri federal constituency, Imo State	20m	Product location is unknown
Power	Rea	Provision and installation of transformers and poles in EzehuOkweOnuimo LGA. Imo State	20m	The community was discovered to be a major federal road leading to various communities
SGF	Napep	Multi purpose civic centre at Omuma, Oru East IGA Imo west senatorial district Imo State	80m	There is no project site located
SGF	Napep	Rehabilitation of Omuma modern market Oru East LGA, Imo State	53m	The market is an everyday market where traders gather to sell and buy & there is no rehabilitation going on
Health	EMC Owerri	Outstanding liability for the free eye screening programme	20m	It was gathered that project is meant to be hospital

Water	Airbdo n	Construction of solar powered borehole and reticulation in AzaraObiato, AlenyiOgwa, Amucha autonomous community and Ohaoohia Obi MbieriMbaitoli, Imo State	10m	The community resident are not aware of project
Water	Airbdo n	Completion of water project at Derie-Ihitte, Umuore, Okirika-Nweke, Obodo-Uchichi, Umuawada, in Aguneze in Ahiazu federal constituency, Imo State	10m	There is no water project and the people do not know of any project
Lands	Lands	Construction of 80 market stalls at OrieAmaigwe market, Umunoha and NkwoObodo market in Mbaitoli, LGA, Imo State	10	The stalls used are stalls built by past governments.

Source: Budget/Tracka 2016

Appendix 5

Not Completed Project for the 2015

MINIS TRY	AGEN CY	PROJECT TITLES	AM OUN T	OBSERVATION
Power	Rea	Provision and installation of transformers and poles in Ajabo/UmunaOnuimo LGA, Imo State	20m	The community is located in a thick bush and no access of road, no light, no water for drinking

Source: Budget/Tracka 2016

Abandoned Project for theyear 2015

MINIS TRY	AGEN CY	PROJECT TITLES	AM OUN T	OBSERVATION
		Completion of construction of Mbutu grand stand (mini Stadium) AbohMbaise Imo State	35m	The stadium is situated in a school field where students go to east during break and after school

Source: Budget/Tracka 2016

Completed Project for the year 2015

MINIS TRY	AGEN CY	PROJECT TITLES	AM OUN T	OBSERVATION
		Completion of construction of cassava processing centre at EzuhuOnumo, Imo State	20m	Though complete but has been covered with grass only some outer part of the centre can be seen.

Source: Budget/Tracka 2016