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Article

Reconnoitering the Beneficial Imperatives of Industrializing Rural Communities in Nigeria: A Critical Discourse

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Abstract: Industrializing rural communities in Nigeria presents a transformative opportunity to address persistent socio-economic challenges and promote inclusive national development. By leveraging Nigeria's abundant natural and human resources, industrialization can enhance agricultural value chains, promote small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and foster infrastructure development in underserved areas. This paper critically explores the beneficial imperatives of industrializing rural communities in Nigeria. The paper relied on secondary sources of data collection which consist of published books, internet source, and journal articles. The Modernization Theory by Walt Rostow 1960 was adopted as the theoretical framework. The paper concludes that industrializing rural communities in Nigeria has an indispensable beneficial imperative to the rural communities. The paper recommends among others that, Nigeria's rural communities are rich in raw materials but suffer from lack of value addition. Government at all levels should endeavour to establish rural industrial clusters that focus on processing local agricultural and natural resources such as rice milling, cassava processing, timber, leatherworks etc. By so doing, inhabitants in rural communities in Nigeria will gain direct employment in processing, packaging, warehousing, transport etc.

Keywords: Industrialization, Rural Communities, Modernization Theory, Nigeria

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1. Introduction

Nigeria, the most populated nation in Africa, has a large rural population with more than 48% of its people living in the rural communities. Although these communities possess abundant natural and human resources, they have often been neglected in terms of development, infrastructure, and economic opportunities. Consequently, rural Nigeria frequently faces issues such as poverty, unemployment, restricted access to education and healthcare, and a heavy dependence on subsistence farming. Even with all its potentials, Nigeria is saddled with a slowly developing rural economy and highly centralized urban economic activities, which has further widened the gap between the rural settlements and the growing urban centers. Industrialization can be spurred on by government policy, labour-saving technologies, the ambitions of entrepreneurs, and/or the market demand for goods and services,[1] writes Erika. The shift to an industrial model has significant cultural consequences, with people moving from small farms to cities and towns in search of work. However, industrializing rural communities is beneficial in promoting rural development when appropriate authorities are able to recognize its significance in an appropriate manner. Rural development strategies whether technocratic or reformist envisage rural industrialization from the point of economic growth and social equity.

Rural industrialization is a gate way to rural development in most nations particularly an agrarian economy like Nigeria [2].

According to Harriss, the rural areas engage in primary economic activities that form the foundation for a country's economic development. Rural industrialisation is a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of people in the rural areas. In the less developed and developing countries, most people live in rural areas and engaged in agriculture [3][4]. That is why the major development challenge of these countries is the development of agricultural structure and improvement of the life standards of the people engaged in agriculture. Given the strategic importance of the rural sector of the Nigerian economy, industrializing this sector should be central to government for which the sector would witness tremendous level of infrastructural development drawing on the beneficial imperatives of industrializing rural communities in Nigeria. According to Ayyar, the scope of rural industrialization is considered basically a question of properly utilizing the rich but unexploited natural resources in the rural areas. It is a process concerned with the involvement of industries in the development of an area and also participation by rural entrepreneurs in the growth of industries best suited to that specific area. The process of rural industrialization, however, is distinguished from the situation under which certain industries are transplanted in a specific rural area [5].

The sole objective of rural industrialization as averred by Ayyar, is uplifting of the rural lot by tapping vast material and human resources existing in the countryside. Industrializing rural communities could be termed as an aspect of spatial diversification of industries and as a process confined to the development of rural industries [6]. QuanbaoLi argued that industrializing rural areas is generally thought to create jobs for rural labours, reduce the number of peasants and increase their incomes, while improving the quality of rural life in the social security, skills training, health, education and other national treatments. In Nigeria's ongoing efforts to diversify its economy especially given the volatility of oil prices and the demand for alternative revenue streams, industrializing rural areas is not just a choice for development but, it is highly essential [7]. This approach is in harmony with national development initiatives such as the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP), the Nigeria Industrial Revolution Plan (NIRP), and international frameworks like the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those aimed at poverty reduction, promoting decent work, and fostering sustainable economic growth [8].

2. Methodology

This is paper based on qualitative research design and researches have been conducted based on secondary data. The paper relies on published sources such as books, journal articles, and internet sites towards examining the positive imperatives for industrialization of rural areas of Nigeria. This methodology is mainly content-based, whereby appropriate data from existing literature are analyzed and synthesized in order to unveil the trends, challenges, and opportunities of rural industrialization. The study employs the theoretical framework of Modernization Theory by Walt Rostow, which presents a linear view of development, with an emphasis on industrialization as an essential basis of economic growth at a national level. It is within this framework that Rwanda in post-colonial Africa, rich as Nigeria is in natural and human resources, finds itself from subsistence farming to a more diverse and industrial economy. This paper investigates the socio-economic dividends of rural industrialisation with a focus on job creation, infrastructure development, and poverty alleviation through secondary data analysis. The analysis looks into the advent of industrial policies and government interventions, followed by the participation of rural entrepreneurs in sustainable development. This approach integrates widely recognised impact assessment standards with the local context as it relates to industrialisation and rural development in Nigeria.

Conceptual Clarifications

For a proper understanding of this work, industrialization and rural communities in Nigeria are conceptualized.

Industrialization

According to Anyanwu, industrialization can be explained as the process of building up a nation's capacity to convert raw materials and other inputs to finished goods, including the manufacture of goods for other production or for final consumption. Industrialization is a situation whereby many industries are established in different parts of a country for the production of many different types of products [9]. In the context of a developing economy like Nigeria, industrialization can be explained as the process of transforming an economy, structurally from a primarily agricultural-based or mono-cultural to a predominantly industrial based or manufacturing economy. The immediate consequence of this transformation is that, manual labour is replaced by mechanized labour and craftsmen by assembly lines. The industrial sector in Nigeria includes the manufacturing, construction, electricity, mining, water and gas industries.

According to Erika, industrialization is the process of transforming the economy of a nation or region from a focus on agriculture to a reliance on manufacturing. Mechanized methods of mass production are an essential component of this transition. The positive characteristics of industrialization include, economic growth, a more efficient division of labor, and a growth spurt in technological innovation [10]. Industrialization is a transformation away from agricultural or resource-based economy, to an economy based on mechanized manufacturing. Industrialization is usually associated with a greater average income and improved living standards. The concept of rural industrialization is considered basically a question of properly utilizing the rich but unexploited national resources in the rural areas. It is a process concerned with the involvement of industries in the development of an area and also participation by rural entrepreneurs in the growth of industries best suited to that specific area. The process of rural industrialization, however, is distinguished from the situation under which certain industries are transplanted in a specific rural area [11].

Industrialization plays a crucial role in the economic growth and advancement of every country. The presence of necessary goods and services, enhanced living conditions, encouragement of various economic sectors, poverty reduction, job creation, and the creation of skilled labour are all factors indicative of a nation's degree of industrialization. The degree of a nation's industrialization as stated by Ikonne and Nwogwugwu, enhances its capacity to produce necessary goods and services, alleviate poverty, promote self-sufficiency, ensure balance of payments stability, cultivate skilled workers, reduce social unrest by generating job opportunities, raise the income potential of the population, support ongoing economic growth and development etc. Arinze posits that, in the case of Nigeria, numerous policies, programs, and strategies have been created to promote the industrialization process since gaining independence in 1960. A significant factor for these industrial policies in Nigeria stems from the belief that industrial growth would create job opportunities, thus minimizing poverty to its lowest extent. These policies have been ineffective because of numerous challenges, such as constant power outages, insufficient financing, various government taxes and insecurity [12][13].

Rural Communities in Nigeria

According to Ele, rural communities which is the opposite of urban communities is where the majority of the population works in primary production activities such as agriculture and livestock farming. In fact, the rural sector plays a crucial role in a country's socioeconomic development. Low population density, inadequate infrastructure, and a major reliance on agriculture and natural resources for subsistence, are characteristics of

rural communities. The economic activities, the structure of its people and the availability of services in these towns are often very different from their urban counterparts found in Nigeria. In Nigeria, a rural area is usually defined as an area with a population or settlement of less than 20,000. The classification of population based on urban or rural residency has been derived from the 1991 population census, which serves as the standard [14].

Rural communities are a high interactive experience of natural environment, and overshadow of agricultural related work. A limited use of technology and a dependence on conventional means of production and social structure are characteristics of rural society [15]. Nigerian rural communities play a crucial role in the country's agricultural industry, making substantial contributions to the supply of raw materials and food production. These communities however, frequently struggle with issues including poor infrastructure, restricted access to healthcare and education, and underdeveloped economies. To address these challenges, focused development programs should focus on improving the standard of living and stimulating sustainable economic activity.

Rural communities in Nigeria as stated by Adewumi and Omoresho, are an integral component of the sociology and culture of the country. These regions are characterised by low population density, poor infrastructure, and an economy based mainly on agriculture and extraction industries. These areas are often varied, consisting of different cultures, languages, and customs. Still, they face common obstacles: high poverty rates, limited job opportunities outside agriculture, and are vulnerable to environmental degradation and climate challenges [16]. The rural population in Nigeria depends heavily on subsistence agriculture which is sometimes accompanied by low levels of productivity that could be effective by poor availability of access to several modern agricultural inputs, credits and extension services.

A Critical Discourse on the Beneficial Imperatives of Industrializing Rural Communities in Nigeria

Rural industrialization is a road map for rural development in most nations particularly an agrarian one like Nigeria. Below are the beneficial imperatives of industrializing rural communities in Nigeria.

a. **Employment Generation:** Employment generation according to Ojo and Ololade, is a mechanism by which individuals or groups generate economic activity capable of giving job opportunities, leading to income production and poverty reduction. Nigeria has a huge rural population and few employment opportunities in rural areas. Rural industrialization as stated by QuanbaoLi, can solve issues of employing rural surplus labours. In addition, it can create jobs for the labours, increase rural per capita income and ease the pressure on urban employment. It is truism therefore, that a major beneficial imperative of industrializing rural communities in Nigeria is employment creation for quite a lot of rural community dwellers [17].

   The rural industries provide immediate large-scale employment and also offer a method of ensuring a more equitable distribution of national income. Rahdika, maintained that rural industrialization is regarded as one of the key economic and social factors leading to economic development. The foremost aim of rural industrializing rural areas is to generate numerous employment opportunities for the rural communities so that, they are able to alleviate the conditions of poverty and promote better livelihoods opportunities for themselves. According to Ayyar, industrializing rural communities facilitates an effective mobilization of resources, capital and skills acquisition which might otherwise remain unutilized, and some of the problems that unplanned urbanization tends to create are avoided by the establishment of small centres of industrial production all over a country. Establishment of small-scale industries is thus, seen as a way of actualizing numerous objectives such as, employment generation, equitable distribution of income,

mobilisation of capital, entrepreneurial skill acquisition and individuals, and regional industrial dispersal.

b. **Infrastructural development:** Infrastructural development as defined by UN-Habitat is the process of building, enlarging and maintaining the physical and the organizational structures that are vital for an economy and a society to goods and services. These include transportation, roads, railways, airports, blade infrastructure electricity supply and gas pipelines, water supply, and sanitation, and telecommunications, as well as educational and health facilities and public institutions. According to African Development Bank, a well-industrialized economy is expected to have adequate infrastructure that will impact positively on the industrial sector of the economy which is seen as an engine of economic growth. Availability of adequate and efficient infrastructural set-up not only improves the quality of life of the people but also, promotes rapid industrialization. The development of infrastructure in is critical for fostering economic growth and improving the living standards of people. It contributes significantly to human capital development, poverty reduction and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) [18].

   The developed and developing countries alike, see industrialization as a significant dynamic for growth and development, and the relationship between infrastructure and industrialization in any economy can be appreciated from the perspective of distribution of resources, which include production inputs and outputs of industries. Thus, infrastructure and industrialization go hand in hand on the quest for sustainable development of any economy. A conscious Nigerian government effort as stated by Ikon, in facilitating industrialization by providing enabling environment in terms of infrastructural facilities such as electric power supply, good roads network, water and sanitation, can greatly enhance industrial growth in the country. The enabling environment also includes good economic policies, open market economy, security of lives and property of the citizens and investors. Roads, power, and water delivery systems are examples of vital infrastructure that is frequently developed as a result of industrialization. These upgrades improve rural populations' quality of life by expanding their access to markets, healthcare and education [19].

c. **Diversification of the Rural Economy:** Madjd-sadjadi views economic diversification as an economic complexity, which is the idea that countries should not be dependent upon a small number of products for their economic livelihoods. The more economically complex a country is, the more likely the country experiences a low level of volatility in its Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This implies that, the more rural communities in Nigeria are industrialized and their economy diversified, the more strengthened the economy becomes and this in turn, accrues to sustainable growth and development. When industries are established in rural communities, there is the tendency of diversifying the local economy and reduce dependence on agriculture or other traditional sectors. Diversifying Nigerian rural communities is significant to sustained national economic expansion.

   One of the strategies of achieving diversification is through industrialization. Rural industrialization fulfils several economic and social needs of rural communities, such as increasing employment opportunities, diversifying rural occupations, raising income and living standards of people, reducing exodus to urban centres, and eliminating regional and economic imbalance [20]. Industrialization propels both structural change and economic expansion. So, industrializing rural communities is a potent tactic for promoting sustainable development in Nigeria. Diversification of rural communities is not merely a consequence of industrialization rather, it is a key factor that will make rural communities in Nigeria, vibrant, resilient, and inclusive

economic environment. By integrating a variety of industries from manufacturing and agro-processing to green industries, rural communities can truly thrive.

d. **Reducing Rural-Urban Migration:** Rural-urban migration as averred by Todaro and Smith, is the migration of people from rural to urban areas, frequently motivated by financial goals such as better employment opportunities, higher wages, and higher living standards. The absence of essential infrastructure and services in rural communities compels individuals, especially the youth, to migrate to urban areas in search of better opportunities. This migration often results in a depletion of the rural labour force, adversely affecting agricultural productivity and local economies. In addition, the migration trend has equally led to urban congestion, strained infrastructure, and diminished agricultural productivity. By industrializing rural communities in Nigeria, employment opportunities are created and there is improved standard of living amongst rural dwellers which in turn, reduces the likelihood of rural-urban migration [21].

   Industrialising rural communities in Nigeria offers a great potential to tackle the growing trend of rural urban migration. The factors underlying rural-urban migration are tackled: creating jobs, upgrading infrastructure, engaging youth, and promoting spatial equity. This unique disposition for; not only relieves the burden placed on cities by increasing numbers of people but it also promotes inclusive and sustainable development throughout the country of Nigeria. Achieving sustainable socioeconomic stability in Nigeria will require deliberate investments in rural industrialisation underpinned by well-considered policy frameworks, active public-private partnership and strong community engagement [22].

e. **Reducing Youth Restiveness:** According to Ejumudo in Nwosu and Abigail, youth restlessness refers to protests by young people over feelings of dissatisfaction, disregard, loneliness, and dispossession. Without a doubt, a well-known socioeconomic dilemma in Nigeria is the youths' dedication to protesting for the restoration of their rights and self-esteem or engaging in self-interested and immoral acts. This issue is common in parts of Nigeria such as the Niger-Delta, where youths are driven to militancy and other types of unrest by unemployment and lack of prospects. Youth restiveness which is typified by social instability, presents serious problems to Nigeria’s progress. Industrializing rural communities in Nigeria is a viable tool to lessen the problem of youth restiveness such as cultism, political thuggery, militancy, kidnapping and banditry in rural communities [23].

   Youths without jobs and opportunities are more likely to be recruited by militants or criminal gangs or to become involved in conflicts. These recruitment channels are reduced if they have gainful employment and hope. The requirement for technical, managerial, and entrepreneurial abilities increases with industries. Acquiring pertinent skills is facilitated by youth training, apprenticeships, and vocational education connected to rural industrial companies. This can boost young people's self-esteem, employability, and capacity to engage in profitable economic activities. Industrializing rural communities provides a long-term answer for resolving youth restiveness. It can reduce the conditions that lead to young discontent by turning rural communities into centers of economic activity through skills enhancement, infrastructure improvements etc.

f. **Poverty Reduction:** As stated by the World Bank, poverty reduction entails, encouraging inclusive economic development, investing in human resources, and guaranteeing access to critical services like education, healthcare, and social safety nets. The goal is not just to raise income levels but also to enable individuals and communities by implementing structural changes that establish lasting opportunities. Industrializing rural communities diversifies the economy, improves access to basic services and creates job opportunities. These strategies reduce regional inequities and promote inclusive growth to solving the complex issues of poverty among individuals

in rural communities in Nigeria. Idris and Kabiru maintained that, training programmes that equip the local workforce technical and administrative skills are frequently included in industrial enterprises. By increasing productivity and empowering people to participate in more profitable economic endeavours, people are pulled out of poverty.

The construction of infrastructure, including roads, electricity, and water supplies, is frequently required as a result of industrialization. These upgrades not only help industrial operations but also improve rural populations' general quality of life. Better access to markets, healthcare, and education, all of which are essential for reducing poverty are associated with the construction of infrastructures in the rural areas. Communities as a whole benefit from these advancements due to the fact that, as families start to have more than just a means of subsistence, poverty starts to lessen. Rural community industrialization is an extremely viable solution to widespread poverty alleviation in Nigeria. Rural industrialization addresses the root causes of rural poverty as opposed to its manifestations through employment generation, income generation by way of value-added activities, infrastructure development and human capital development.

g. **Promoting Social Cohesion and Cultural Exchange:** When we refer it to the social cohesion, we are talking about the integration and cohesiveness within a society. However, cultural exchange entails the sharing of ideas, customs, and various cultural aspects between different communities to foster mutual understanding and respect. Building social capital is facilitated by the establishment of community-based organizations and cooperative societies, which are frequently the result of industrialization. These industries help members of the community to work together, develop trust, and support one another. Industrialisation of Nigerian rural communities can be beneficial to the emergence of durable and integrated rural communities as it promotes gender empowerment, cultural exchange, community participation, the construction of social capital and cultural biodiversity protection. Inclusive policies and strategic planning are required to ensure that industrialization reveres and reinforces the cultural dynamics of rural areas.

Industries situated in rural areas draw in local semi skilled and unskilled labor from various races and cultures. Such diversity enables cultural exchange, where customs, languages, and practices are shared. Such interactions pave the way for broader cultural exchanges and integration and thus contribute to the social dynamics of rural India. Industrialisation encourages women's participation in economic activities which strengthens social cohesion between the sexes, as some of studies on women's empowerment programmes indicate. This strategy of developing social capital, cultural exchange, promotion of community involvement, and women empowerment through industrialization of rural communities can help in building stable and strong rural communities in Nigeria. However, it is essential to implement these initiatives thoughtfully to ensure that they respect and enhance the existing cultural dynamics of rural areas.

3. Theoretical Framework

Modernization theory by Walt Rostow is adopted in this work as the theoretical framework. Rostow proposed a linear, evolutionary model of development, suggesting that all countries go through a series of five distinct stages (traditional society, take-off conditions, take-off, drive to maturity, and age of high mass consumption) on their path to modern industrial society. The implication and relevance of modernization theory as it applies to this work is that, the transition from subsistence farming to rural industrialization in rural Nigeria represents the prerequisites for take-off and possibly the take-off stage, laying the groundwork for widespread development. According to Rostow, a country's shift from a traditional civilization starts when it establishes a modern industrial basis and makes investments in productive sectors. Industrialization provides a

viable way to put excess labour to good use in rural Nigeria, where underemployment and disguised unemployment predominate the labor market. By supporting Rostow's theory of capital accumulation and greater investment, employment creation serves as a stimulant for economic change, bringing rural areas closer to modernity and financial independence [24].

The industrialization of rural Nigeria through the application of modernization theory highlights the importance of economic diversification and infrastructure development as two essential components for long-term progress. These elements enable rural communities to transition from subsistence living to dynamic, productive, and inclusive economies by acting as both prerequisites for 'take-off' and modernization engines. Nigeria can break the cycle of rural poverty, reduce rural-urban migration, and unleash the potential of its rural populace by investing in infrastructure and encouraging diversified rural economies. This will bring the country closer to Rostow's ideal of a modern, mature society.

Rural areas in Nigeria are underutilized, and urban areas are overburdened. Nonetheless, rural communities can effectively decentralize growth and more fairly share possibilities through industrialization. If rural populations have access to contemporary amenities, work opportunities, and education, they are more likely to stay in their villages and migration becomes a choice rather than a necessity, which eases the strain on metropolitan infrastructure and services. It serves to back Rostow's concept of well-balanced and gradual development through collective participation from all sectors in addition to all regions in economic transformation.

Modernization theory states that a modern economy demands a modern workforce. Rural industrialization also enables many unemployed youth to engage in productive economic activities thereby limiting their involvement in crimes, social vices and radicalism. People who have a job and believe in a brighter future do not see violence, militancy and protest as a good option. Modernization was, Rostow said, a social-psychological transformation as well as an economic one, with traditional values yielding to contemporary ones including individualism, aspiration, work ethic, and civic responsibility. In this manner, industrialisation is seen in Nigeria as a means of achieving social order and reducing youth violence.

Modernization theory closely associates industrialization with economic development and poverty reduction. In rural Nigeria, as industries grow and employment options expand, households are able to receive consistent income and raising their level of living. The "take-off" stage, which is Rostow's third stage, calls for the investment of at least reasonable percent of national GDP in rural industrial development. When implemented in rural regions, these investments not only promote development but also help communities end the increased rate of poverty.

In Nigeria, industrializing rural communities involves a multifaceted transformation process rather than just an economic endeavour. According to Modernization Theory, maintaining cultural legacy and fostering social cohesiveness are vital requirements that uphold and encourage industry. These components promote harmonious coexistence, fortify collective identity, and turn rural regions into thriving, welcoming, and fruitful environments. In the end, industrialization serves as a link between tradition and advancement, unity and variety, the past and the future, and true modernization in Nigeria must be based on both economic dynamism and cultural integrity.

4. Conclusion

Rural development strategies whether technocratic or reformist envisage rural industrialization from the point of economic growth and social equity. Rural industrialization is a gate way to rural development particularly an agrarian economy like Nigeria. Industrializing rural communities in Nigeria has an indispensable beneficial

imperative such as providing employment opportunities for rural community members and augmenting their living conditions. Industrialization brings new technologies and innovations to rural areas, helping to modernize and improve productivity in various sectors, especially the agricultural sector in Nigeria. When industries are established in rural communities in Nigeria, there is a chance to diversify the local economy and reduce dependence on agriculture or other traditional sectors.

There is no gainsaying to the fact that industrialization often requires improvements in infrastructure such as road, electricity, and water supply which can benefit the entire rural communities in Nigeria and drive economic growth and development in the rural communities.

Recommendations

The following policy recommendations are proffered in this paper:

a. Nigeria's rural communities are rich in raw materials but suffer from a lack of value addition. Governments at all levels should endeavour to establish rural industrial clusters that focus on processing local agricultural and natural resources such as rice milling, cassava processing, timber, leatherworks, etc. By doing so, inhabitants of rural communities in Nigeria will gain direct employment in processing, packaging, warehousing, transport, and related sectors.
b. Nigerian authorities at all tiers must integrate rural industrialization in the national and sub-national development plans with active funding of supporting infrastructure. This way, infrastructure like roads, power and water could be developed in-line with industrial efforts, thereby creating potential demand for both public and private investment in rural communities across Nigeria.
c. The Nigerian government must synergize the public sector, private sector and philanthropic organisations in rural communities to co-create industries that reflect local realities, challenges and strengths. This will then empower the rural community to attract investors to set up businesses, ultimately driving the growth of hospitality, transport, guide services, reinforcing local identity, and increasing rural economy diversification.
d. The government should establish agro-processing plants and resource-based industries in rural communities to process agricultural products such as rice, cassava, yams, oil palm, and groundnuts. By establishing these processing industries close to rural areas, farmers would receive fairer prices for their produce and retain more value within the rural economy. This, in turn, would encourage youth to engage in agribusiness ventures rather than seek uncertain employment in urban areas.
e. A comprehensive rural industrial policy addressing the various challenges faced by rural industrialization needs to be mapped out. There is a need for government at all levels in Nigeria to support rural industrialization through policies, investments, and adequate funding. By doing so, there would be accelerated socioeconomic growth and development in rural communities across Nigeria, which, in turn, would help reduce the rising rate of youth restiveness in the country.
f. The government should reform land tenure laws to ensure secure access to land for investors and rural entrepreneurs, improve transparency and reduce corruption in the implementation of industrialization projects, and strengthen the capacity of local governments to plan, monitor, and regulate rural industrial development. By doing so, rural communities in Nigeria would become industrialized, and the high rate of poverty among individuals in these communities would be significantly reduced.

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