

Challenges and Prospects of Enhancing Productivity for Sustainable Development in the Public Sector: The Case of Bayelsa State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT The key emphasis for sustainable development in the public sector has been on efficient and effective ways of organising and executing public programmes to achieve desired results. But in recent times, the public sector has increasingly become saddled with problems of low productivity resulting from political, institutional and sociological factors. These factors or problems are accentuated by the absence of scientific measurement techniques and this paper aims at identifying the major factors militating against the measurement of productivity. It also examines the complexity, challenges and prospects in applying selected private sector techniques to enhance productivity in Nigeria. This is expected to positively change the current low trend and chart a pragmatic way forward. The paper adopts Max Weber's theory on bureaucracy and applies desktop experimental design method of data collection. The study observes that in spite of the difficulties, the measurement of productivity in the public sector is achievable. This would be a remarkable contribution because many practitioners and scholars have believed that productivity cannot be measured with reasonable degree of success in the public sector. The paper concludes that the public sector should adopt technique, such as management by objective (MBO), programme worthiness and law enforcement index erstwhile applied in the private sector.