RESUSCITATING MORIBUND INDUSTRIES FOR EMPLOYMENT GENERATION AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

The continuous closure of Nigeria's moribund industries remains of great concern to the government, policy makers, stakeholders and the general public since their continuous closure denies the country of the potential benefits associated with having functioning industries. This paper therefore focuses on investigating the factors that led to the collapse of these industries and examines efforts made by successive government to revamp these ailing industries. The findings reveal that many industries were close down due to smuggling of goods into the country, poor power supply, over dependence on imported raw materials, poor quality of local raw materials and harsh business environment. The finding also reveals that manufacturing employment declines as the fortunes of these industries declines in Nigeria. Moreover, foreign exchange that would have been generated are lost. The paper concludes that reviving the ailing moribund industries would boost employment generation, transform the real sector of the Nigerian economy and help attain sustainable development. In achieving this, sector specific policies should be implemented, the granting of tax holiday for ten years and subsidies where necessary to deserving industries that embark on backward integration policy, improving infrastructure development around industrial hubs, *while making business environment more conducive for industries to operate.*

Keywords: Resuscitate, Moribund Industries, Manufacturing Employment, Nigeria

1. Introduction

The manufacturing sector which was once the second largest employer of labour in Nigeria after government in the 1980s; accounting for 500,000 direct jobs and 250 functional factories in the country (Mefor, 2016) has been experiencing decline in output and employment since 1990s, which consequently has led to the closure of firms/industries such as Okin Biscuits, Bata shoes Ltd, Lennards Nigeria Ltd, Berec Nigeria Ltd, Ile-Oluji Cocoa Grinding Plant, Aba Textile Mills, Nigeria Paper Mills, Iwopin Pulp and Paper Company (IPPC), Nigeria Newsprint Manufacturing Company (NNMC) to mention but a few[1]. Many of these industries or firms went into camatose due to their inability to continue to finance their import bills arising from foreign exchange challenges, poor infrastructure base, non-conducive business environment, inconsistency in government policy, smuggling of all kinds of products, poor management and so on.

The textile and garment, leather and shoe, tyres, pulp and paper, sugar, and battery industries are the worst hit by this decline. The industry which provided 350,000 direct employment and millions of indirect jobs and employment in the country in 1980s, has been experiencing rapid decline in employment providing only 100,000 in 1995, 50,000 in 2004 and 30,000 in 2007 due to the closure of many textile firms in the country (Bello, Inyinbor, Dada & Oluyori, 2013; Suleiman, Muhammed, Yahaya & Etsuyankin, 2012). Thus, the contribution of the sector to employment generation has fallen short of expectation of policy makers considering the fact that the sector has enormous potential of generating thousands of direct and millions of indirect jobs for the teeming unemployed population in the country.

The continuous closure of moribund industries in Nigeria has been of great concern to the government, policy makers, researchers, and the general public. This may not be unconnected with the fact that reviving such industries would help conserve foreign exchange that would be lost from importing goods into the country, provide employment for the growing population, boost industrial and economic development.

The outbreak of the Covid 19 pandemic with its attendant devastating effects on economies worldwide, thus provoke the need for Nigeria to revamp her moribund industries with the current realities of life, which has challenged the resilience of the country's economy to withstand adverse economic situations and uncertainty in the future.The resuscitation of moribund manufacturing industries is expected to lead to job creation, increase foreign exchange, boost economic growth, reduce crime rate and widen tax base in the country (Ofurum, 2020).

This paper therefore provides an insight to what led to the collapse of moribund industries in Nigeria with a view of reversing the trend by making the sector assume its pivotal role as an engine of growth by contributing more to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), increase the contribution of the sector to employment and help to achieve sustainable development in Nigeria.

see appendix1 for more of such companies.

The justification for the study stems from the fact that studies relating to moribund industries in Nigeria are scanty due to paucity of data since many of these firms have been delisted from the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE). This study is in line with the government efforts at revamping the manufacturing sector for optimum productivity and it is also in line with the sustainable development goals of promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialisation through increase in industry shares in employment and GDP of the country.

The expectations are that the manufacturing sector should help increase economic growth in Nigeria (Africa), lead to increase employment of people, and then reduce poverty in the Nigeria (continent). The pertinent questions to ask are: what led to the collapse of many manufacturing firms/ industries in Nigeria? What can be done to avert further closure of firms/industries in Nigeria? What can be done to revive these moribund industries in Nigeria? The paper therefore investigates the factors that led to the collapse of industries in Nigeria and provide an insight for policy makers' on measures to be implemented in order to revive these industries.

The paper contributes to extant literature in the following ways: First, it identifies the challenges that led to the manufacturing industries becoming moribund in Nigeria. Second, it addresses the problems in order to revive the moribund industries. Third, it provides suggestions on how to prevent further closure of industries and revamping the existing ailing industries. Fourth, the study is more encompassing than previous studies on moribund industries in Nigeria.

The rest of the paper is structured as follows; section 2 deals with the theoretical bases and reviews the relevant literature. Section 3 discusses measures taken by the government to revive moribund industries while section 4 presents and discusses the declining trends of moribund industry employment. Section 5 concludes the study.

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Concept of Sustainable Development

The concept of sustainable development stems from the need to have economic growth and development that benefit the larger society without degrading the environment. It is a holistic development, which will lead to growth without endangering the environment and future growth. It seeks to promote inclusive growth, which will help to reduce poverty across the world. This will lead to prosperity, create jobs, build stable and prosperous society across the globe by the year 2030. It is development that will not only lead to reduction in poverty across the world but will also promote environmental friendliness.

Inclusive growth and sustainable development can be used to achieved SDGs goals by improving manufacturing processes, which would help to improve on industries productivity and increase their contribution to GDP, provides jobs for numerous population, which will help to reduce poverty in the country. It would also enable them to operate and produce quality and varied goods to improve the standard of living of the people.

2. 2 Theoretical Expositions

Both theory and practice have confirmed the role of the manufacturing sector in promoting growth. A set of laws explaining the role of manufacturing in promoting economic growth was provided by Kaldor Hicks in 1966 and 1967. According to him; manufacturing is the key to economic growth. The growth rate of an economy is positively related to the growth rate of its manufacturing sector. The faster the growth rates of the sector, the faster the growth rate of GDP partly due to the fact that manufacturing output constitutes the largest component of export-led growth and that manufacturing induces productivity growth inside and outside the sector; hence, the sector has been described as the "engine of growth" (Hicks (1966); Hicks1967; Thirwall, 2015; Oshodi, 2019).

Second, an increase in the rate of growth of manufacturing output leads to an increase in labour productivity in that sector due to the static and dynamic economies of scale or increasing returns to scale (Thirwall, 2015); third, the quicker manufacturing output growth rate, the more rapidly labour moves from the other sectors to the sector. As the output of the manufacturing sector increases, the sector draws surplus labour from the non-manufacturing sectors of the economy. This reduces disguised unemployment and thus raises productivity in these sectors (Lopez & Thirwall (2013); Thirwall (2015); Oshodi, 2019).

Thus, rapid industrial development helps to promote inclusive growth, quicken the attainment of structural transformation, and hasten the diversification of economies (Mordi, Englama & Adebusuyi, 2010). It is therefore imperatives that the moribund industries in Nigeria should be revived to help enhance industrial development and enable the sector to play its pivotal role of promoting sustainable economic growth in the country.

2.3 Overview of Moribund Industries in Nigeria

The desire to hasten industrial development led to governmental involvement in the ownership and management of business enterprises in Nigeria. The massive revenue from the oil sector and FDI

paved the way for government investment in several industries in late1970s and 1980s, some of which include; investment in cement, iron and steel, automobile and vehicle assembly plants, fertilizer, pulp and paper, sugar, salt and textiles. Regrettably, most of government business enterprises were mismanaged with many of them incurring losses such as NAFCON, NEPA to mention but a few. The continuous financing of these enterprises/corporations from the nation's treasury coupled with the dwindling revenue from crude oil necessitated the privatization of some of these enterprises such as the Nigeria sugar company Ltd, Lafiagi sugar company Ltd, and Savannah sugar company Ltd (Mordi, Englama & Adebusuyi 2010).

Many of such industries in the textiles and apparels, rubber and tyres, the leather and footwear, sugar, the pulp and paper products, and the battery have folded up over the years due to the inability of these companies to continue financing their import bills due to foreign exchange challenges. The specific problems that hinders specific industries' operation, which led to their death are discussed below:

The pulp and paper industry with three major paper mills established by the government were meant to reduce the amount of foreign exchange spent annually on the import of news prints, pulp and paper products into the country. Apart from producing paper to meet the paper needs in the country, the mills were employers of labour to thousands of people, they are major drivers of development not only in the communities where they were sited but in the country at large.

Nigeria Paper Mills, Jebba, Kwara State which was commissioned in 1969, produced 65,000 tonnes of Kraft paper and corrugated cartons per annum in 1985 but collapsed in 1993 due to the malfunctioning of equipment and machinery used in production and inadequate capital for its operations (Mordi, Englama & Adebusuyi 2010; Olufemi. 2020). On the other hand, Iwopin Pulp and Paper Company Limited, Ogun State commenced operation in 1995 with an installed capacity to produce 38,000 metric tonnes of blenched short fibre pulp annually and 65,000 metric tonnes of cultural grades of fine writing and printing papers, including wove for publishing, envelop and blank paper. The company fortune nose-dived in the late 1990s due to poor funding, poor management and reliance on imported raw materials (Mordi, Englama & Adebusuyi (2010); Olufemi. 2020), which culminated into its collapse in 2002.

Nigeria Newsprint Manufacturing Company (NNMC) Oku-Ibokwu, Akwa-Ibom state was established in 1986 with an installed capacity of 100,000 metric tonnes of newsprint per annum, and to produce for export to USA, Canada, Ghana, and Sierra Leone. This was to help reduce newsprint importation into the country. While operational, the company produced an average of 25,440.5 metric tonnes between 1988 and 1992, which assisted in reducing newsprint import into the country by 12.5 percent in 1987 (Olufemi. 2020). The inability to clear wood pulp imported into the country through the Calabar port in 1992 as a result of lack of money led to the collapse of the company in 1996 (Mordi, Englama & Adebusuyi 2010). Efforts by the company to utilise local raw materials could not sustained. Thus, the non-availability of raw materials for production was the major problem of the three mills.

The textile and garment industry which was once the second largest employer of labour lost its ability to engage workers. Before 1991, the textile industry thrives in the country, the industry recorded an annual growth rate of 67 percent and employed about 25 percent of the workers of the manufacturing sector in that year. The textile industry which accounted for 60 percent of labour force in the manufacturing sector and contributed immensely to socio-economic and cultural development of the country is now a shadow of itself (Asaju, 2014; Makinde, et al. 2015).

Between 1980 and 2014, a total of 145 textile companies folded up due to plethora problems facing the industry, which ranges from high rate of textile and apparels been smuggled into the country, cheap imports from Asia, inadequate power supply, old textile plants and equipment and poor quality of cotton, preferences for imported textile to locally made ones, harsh economic environment, inadequacy of locally produced raw materials and failed government policies (NIRP, 2014; Makinde, et al. 2015). The implication of this is the high cost of production of local fabrics. It is regrettable that the country spends USD 2 billion annually on imported textile goods while an estimated 85 percent of the textile materials in the country are smuggled into Nigeria (NIRP, 2014).

The sugar product industry had Tate and Lyle Nigeria Ltd. and the Nigerian Sugar Company Ltd, as the two major players which operated and produced sugar in the country before they folding up. Tate and Lyle Industries Plc. was established in 1962 produced cube sugar from imported refined sugar and from the production of Bacita factory owned by the Nigerian sugar company. While in operation, the company employed 400 persons and has an installed capacity of 20,000 tonnes before the indigenisation decree which reduced its ownership to 37 percent in 1978 (Chalmin, 1990).

Nigerian Sugar Company Ltd, Bacita, Kwara was established in 1964 with over 300 hectares of sugar cane farms; a production capacity of 300 metrics tonnes of sugar cane per day; sugar refining capacity; backward integration in planting, harvesting, milling and processing with the products well patronized by Nigerian. It produced 36,000 tonnes of sugar during its existence while it had over 40,000 workers during crop season and 15,000 workers during off-season (Engineers Forum, 2021). The company generated its own electricity from stream-driven generators. As the company continues to face various challenges, machinery worth billions of Naira were imported by African Development Bank during the former Military President Babaginda tenure.

The privatization of the Nigerian Sugar Company Ltd in 2006 led to the company being sold to Josepdam Sugar Company.

Efforts by the company to turn around the fortune of the sugar company was short-lived due to the untimely death of Mrs. Kuteyi (the leader of the company) in an air crash near Ogbomosho in 2008. The inability of the company to pay the loan obtained from banks led to AMCON taking over of the company. The company stop production/operations in 2011.

NIRP (2014) identified over-reliance on the importation of raw sugar into the country, which accounted for about 98 percent of total imports; low backward integration in the industry as there was insufficient capital investment in processing sugarcane into raw sugar and structural barriers, which relates to high cost of power supply, tough investment climate, high cost of funding, dearth of public infrastructure- dams, dykes, roads and so on.

Several ceramic industries functioned in different part of the country in the 1980s. These include: Nigergrob ceramic industry, Abeokuta; Quality ceramic industry Shagamu; Richware ceramic industry, Ilupeju,(Lagos); Ceramic manufacturer, Kano; Modern ceramic, Umuahia and a ceramic industry at Ifon (Ondo state). (Oaikhinan reported by Jeremiah, 2015). While these industries were operational, thousands of workers were employed. However, the industry began to witness steady decline in the late 1980s which resulted to importation of ceramic products worth ₦130 Billion (US $600) into the country. The country now relying on about 75 percent of ceramic products being imported into the country to meet local demand. Some of the factors identified by Oaikhinan for comatose state of the ceramic industry in Nigeria are inadequate access to capital, policy inconsistencies, lack of appropriate technology and machinery and no local well-equipped laboratories and institutions where skills for mineral processing and process technology could be acquired (Oaikhinan as reported by Jeremiah, 2015).

Dunlop Nigeria Plc. (D N Tyre & Rubber Plc.) and Michelin Nigeria Ltd were two tyre manufacturing firms in Nigeria and the whole of West Africa sub-region when they were in operation. They both produced 2.25m units representing 75 percent of Nigerians tyre market (Yinusa, 2014). The inability of most Nigerian to buy new cars as a result of the worsen economic situation and declining purchasing power of an average Nigeria led to the purchase of second hand (Tokunbo) cars and second hand/ Tokunbo/ budget tyres which were more attractive and cheaper than the (premium or new tyres). As the demand for budget tyre increased the domestic tyres manufacturing firms began to find it difficult to sell their products (premium tyres).

Government policy somersault on reducing tariff from 40 percent to 10 percent in January 2006 led to influx of all kinds of cheap and poor quality tyres into the country and since the tyre industry was not protected from the influx of these imported tyres, this led to the non-competitiveness and folding up of Michelin in 2006 and Dunlop Nigeria Plc.in 2008. This has led to the loss of over 3000 direct and thousands of indirect jobs, the closure of many feeder cottage industries that serviced the factories, the non-payment of taxes, better security situation and positive impact on the national economy (Yinusa, 2014).

The leather and footwear industry has witnessed a mixed performance. Leather became another major earner of foreign exchange for Nigeria. Two major reasons responsible for the growth of the leather industry then were; firstly, the ban of the export of wet blue and setting a minimum requirements of crust export in 1999 which led to the closure of many domestic tanneries with only the foreign own-tanneries with stronger financial base and technology surviving. Secondly, the introduction of Export Expansion Grant (EEG) scheme encouraged leather exports growth in Nigeria.

The leather and footwear industry provides direct employment for about 100,000 in Lagos, 300,000 in Aba, 150,000 in Onitsha, 60,000 in Kano, 10,000 in Kaduna and about 200,000 in other areas. And if all employees of finished leather, transport and others are considered, those engaged may be up to 2.5-3 million (Growth & Employment in States (GEM), 2012).

Reviving moribund industries would have enormous benefits for the country. Akinfe (2019) pointed out that Nigeria could grow her GDP in 2023 by $1Trillion if ten only moribund industries such as Ajaokuta Steel Mill, Jebba Paper Mill, Oluwa Glass Company, Okposi Salt Industry, Arewa Textile Kaduna, Ile-Oluji Cocoa, Grinding Plant, Mokwa Cattle Ranch, Nigerian-Romanian Wood Industry, Bacita Sugar Company and Okitipupa Palm Oil Mill are revived. Other moribund industries that could be also be revived include Nigercem at Nkalagu, Enugu State; Aba Textile Mills in Abia State; Standard Shoe Factory Owerri, Imo State; Nigergas, Nigersteel Company, Glass Industry, Aba, Imo Rubber Nigeria Limited, Resin and Paints Industry, Aboh Mbaise, Imo State, Avutu Poultry, Obowo, Imo State, Paper Packaging Industry in Owere–Ebiri, Orlu, Imo State and Modern Ceramics, Umuahia, Abia State.

3. Measures taken by the Government to Resuscitate Moribund Industries in Nigeria

Although, manufacturing industries such as cement, food and beverages are thriving in the country presently, many ailing manufacturing industries remain closed till date. With the dwindling fortune of the manufacturing sector, successive Nigerian governments have put in place different measures to resuscitate moribund industries in the country. Some of the measures taken in boosting different industries in Nigeria are discussed in this section.

To salvage the textile industry, an outright ban was place on importation of textile materials into the country by the Obasanjo administration. This was meant to encourage local textile producers and save the industry from unfair competition from foreign textiles. Regrettably, the policy failed to achieve it purpose due to smuggling through our porous border. Thereafter, the government provided a textile intervention fund of ₦70 billion, with 71 percent of the fund meant for textile and garment sector, while 29 percent was earmarked for cotton growers (Bello, Inyinbor, Dada & Oluyori, 2013).

The Yar Adua administration earmarked ₦100 billion as cheap loans for the operators of textile sector in order to bring them back to operation, out of which ₦10 billion was disbursed in 2010. While the Jonathan administration through special intervention fund resuscitated United Nigerian Textile UNTL Plc, which suspended its operation in October, 2007. The textile firm resumed its operations in 2011 with a work force of 900 workers (Aguiyi, et al. 2011; Bello, Inyinbor, Dada & Oluyori, 2013).

The cotton and fibre production initiatives was also implemented by the Jonathan administration. Improved cotton seedlings were distributed to cotton farmers in ten states (Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Jigawa, Kano, Kaduna, Katsina, Ogun and Oyo). This initiatives encouraged able-body young men to venture into cotton farming in these states, which is expected to boost cotton cultivation for use in the textile industry (Yusuf, 2019).

The Buhari administration have been trying to revive the textile industry. First, the President inaugurated the Presidential Committee of Cotton, Textile and Garment (CTG) in 2015. Through the policy, the government hopes to have a cumulative investment of ₦255billion between 2015 and 2020 and save $2billion foreign exchange spent on importation of textiles and garments into the country. The government also hope to increase indirect employment to 1.3 million in 2017 (News Agency of Nigeria, 2019).

Second, the President mandated the Central Bank Governor to provide funds for the textile industries. Also, the memorandum of understanding with the military and paramilitary outfits is another efforts by the government to revive the cotton, textile and garment sector in Nigeria for the patronage of local fabrics. These measures of the government are commendable.

Government efforts at revitalizing activities in the sugar estate, boost domestic raw production for sugar refineries and create jobs led to the introduction of the revised sugar tariff structure, which came into effect on 1st January, 2013. This tariff allows for a zero per cent import duty on machinery and spare parts meant for local sugar manufacturing industries; a five year tax holiday for investors in the sugar value chain; a 10 percent import duty and 50 percent levy on imported raw sugar; and a 20 percent duty and 60 percent levy for imported refined sugar. This was to shift investment pattern towards backward integration in the sugar value chain (Nzeka & Olaito, 2013).

It is instructive to note that Dangote sugar refinery and BUA group have started embarking on backward integration, nevertheless, Nigeria's foremost two industries; Tate & Lyle Nigeria Plc and Bacita sugar company should be revived considering that there exists huge sugar demand deficit in the country. The sugar plants in Nigeria were only able to meet 20 percent of domestic sugar requirements in the country estimated at 1.8 million metric tonnes annually by 2020, while the remaining 80 percent of sugar requirements are met from sugar imports into the country (Mordi. Engalama & Adebusuyi, 2010; NIRP, 2014).

The Buhari government recently made efforts at revamping the shoe and leather industry (leather & footwear) through the inauguration of an ultra-modern industrial shoe-making hub equipped with cutting edge technology, which has the capacity to produce shoes that would compete favourably with those of industrialised countries. This bold attempt by the Federal government through the CBN which provided ₦2billion for this modern micro, small and medium enterprise complex in conjunction with the Anambra state government led by Governor Willie Obiano to boost the shoe and leather industries, create jobs for the people as well as industrialise the state (Nairaland Forum, 2021). Such efforts could be replicated in other parts of the country in order to revive the moribund shoe and leather industry.

All the above measures to resuscitate these moribund industries have yielded little results, which falls short of government and stakeholders expectations in terms of these industries bouncing back to operations to help boost manufacturing contribution to GDP and employment.

4. Moribund Industries and Employment in Nigeria

Table 1: Employment in Some Moribund Firms in Nigeria between 1995 and 2009

Year	UNTL	AFPRINT	ALUM	NGG	PS.M	DNTR	UD	A P	IPWA	J B
1995	NA	4530	209	NA	NA	1238	NA	230	265	472
1996	10568	3907	229	650	NA	1241	NA	247	202	502
1997	5593	3283	250	433	NA	1146	NA	247	192	699
1998	5132	2900	247	325	NA	1152	NA	201	197	606
1999	5297	2517	172	218	NA	941	NA	187	189	564
2000	5081	2828	205	114	100	956	NA	160	141	507
2001	8338	2216	109	113	100	931	NA	166	141	501
2002	8326	1603	111	122	107	893	47	156	125	518
2003	8115	1501	103	136	NA	923	428	106	125	478
2004	8204	974	125	142	87	994	160	91	109	430

2005	8220	350	125	154	82	1108	155	63	111	501
2006	7633	62	121	162	82	1134	155	57	126	478
2007	4069	6	104	168	82	1053	71	43	106	341
2008	4042	3	85	168	82	75	63	29	114	204
2009	3342	3	NA	NA	82	62	NA	18	114	NA

Note: UNTL, ALUM, NGG , PS.M, DNTR, UD , A P, ,IPWA, J B denotes United Nigerian textiles Mills plc, ALUMACO Plc , Nigerian German Chemicals Plc , P S Mandrides , Dunlop Nigeria Tyre, Union Dicon, African Petroleum, International Paint West Africa , Jos International Breweries.

Sources: Author's Compilation from Annual Reports of Firms and NSE Fact books

Table 1 presents the declining fortune of moribund industries employment in Nigeria from 1995 to 2009. Although, employment generation, particularly in industries is considered as one of the ways to achieving inclusive growth and enhancing the well-being of citizens in a country, the reverse seems to be the case with manufacturing industries' contribution to employment generation declining overtime with the collapse of these industries. A decline in manufactured employment was witnessed as the fortune of sampled moribund industries decline. For instance, while 10,568 workers were employed by United Nigerian textiles Mills plc in 1996, employment declines steadily to 7,633 in 2006 before it further declined sharply to 3,342 in 2009.

Afprint Nigeria Plc., which had 4,530 workers in its employment in 1995 witnessed a drastic decline in employment to merely 3 workers in 2009. Similarly, Dunlop Nigeria Ltd., which later became D N Tyres & Rubber Plc. had 1,241 workers in 1996 but overtime, their workers declined to only 62 in 2009. Furthermore, Jos International Breweries, and IPWA paint Plc. had higher employment of 699 workers and 247 workers in 1997 respectively as against 204 workers and 114 workers for JB and IPWA paint plc. in 2009. The declining trend in employment was also experienced by all other ailing industries as seen in Table 1. For examples, ALUMACO Plc.; Nigerian German Chemicals Plc.; P S Mandrides, Kano; Union Dicon Plc.; African Paints; IPWA paint Plc. and Jos International Breweries all had their workers retrenched into the already saturated labour market.

The case of United Nigerian Textile UNTL Plc provides a success story of a moribund industry resuscitated with the employment of 900 workers since the company resumed operations in 2011 due to the intervention of the Jonathan administration (Aguiyi, et al. (2011). However, Afprint Nigeria Plc and many other industries are yet to be revived till date. Thus, with manufacturing share of employment in the country remaining insignificant, the realisation of goal 9 of the SDGs becomes unachievable in the country for now.

The reasons attributable for the collapse of textile moribund industries are: the smuggling of imported textile products into the country, high preferences and patronage of foreign textile products by the elites and political class in Nigeria culminating in the low patronage of made-in-Nigeria textiles, poor quality of locally produced cotton led to the collapse of many textile industries in Nigeria. While poor quality of hides and skins, limited high grade leather, weak tanning and leather preparation standards were albatross of the leather and footwear industry. The influx of smuggled cheap tyres into the country led to the collapse of the tyres industry while the imposition of low tariff on imported aluminium led to the death of the ALUMACO Plc.

The implication for this declining employment resulting from the ailing industries is that the level of poverty gets worsen when people lose their means of livelihood through the lost of their jobs and if industries are to help achieve poverty reduction (improvement in the standard of living), this must be done through industry, innovation and infrastructure- Goal 9 of SDGs). Thus, the reviving of moribund industries becomes inevitable if the SDGs are to be achieved by the year 2030.

Many manufacturing industries collapse due to poor infrastructure base resulting in high cost of production with many industries relying on generating their own power/ energy to run their operations. This conforms with Adenikinju (2008) finding, which opined that infrastructure problem constitutes the most important factor hindering manufacturing operations in Nigeria. The death of these industries and the inability of the government and stakeholders to revive most of them meant that the country's foreign reserves continues to be depleted and devalues. The continuous patronage of foreign goods by Nigerians amount to the killing of our local industries and promoting unemployment in the country, while promoting foreign industries and employment in other countries from where we import these products.

By implication, the closure of these industries has led to many workers being retrenched and declining employment, which negates government efforts at promoting employment in the country and efforts at reducing poverty in the country. Other negative effects are loss of foreign exchange that would have been generated from exports to other countries, low contribution of manufacturing to Gross Domestic Products (GDP) and the economy remaining vulnerable to external shocks of international oil price fluctuations or war as we have in Ukraine or pandemic.

5. Recommendations and Concluding Remarks

In the light of the above, there is the need for collaborative efforts on the part of all stakeholders in synergising on reviving moribund industries in Nigeria. Both sector-specific and general policies are needed to turn around the fortune of these industries. Specifically, the following sector-specific policy should be implemented:

i. In reviving the pulp and paper moribund mills, our industries should rely on the use of non-wooden raw materials which is abundant in the country instead of relying on imported wooden raw materials which was difficulty to come by due to the difficulties of obtaining foreign exchange.

ii. The textile and garment industry must embraced backward integration policy. Both small holders farmers and large-scale cotton plantation should be further encouraged by the government through the granting of subsidies to the farmers in order to provide high quality cotton for use by textile industries. Moreover, smuggling must be reduced drastically through the combined efforts of all government agencies. No economy can thrive with smuggling.

iii. In revamping the tyres industries, stable tariff regime, investment friendly environment, granting of ten years tax holiday for new tyres industries should be implemented.

iv. Efforts by the Kwara state government to acquire and revive Nigerian Sugar Company, Bacita should be assisted by Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON) and complemented by the Federal government on the acquisition of modern equipment in reviving the sugar industry. Other states of the federation should make bold steps at reviving state owned moribund industries. Also, the sugar industry should embark on backward integration with firms having large scale sugar plantation to serve as source of raw materials for sugar production in the country.

In preventing further closure of Nigeria's firms and revamp the already moribund industries, the following suggestions are put forward:

V. the patronage of made in Nigeria goods by government agencies, parastatal and officials of the three arms of government in the country and the general public.

Vi. the ease of doing business should further be improved upon by the government. Business environment should be enhanced through government incentives and policies.

Vii. improving infrastructure development around industrial hubs in Nigeria. Power, ports, transport and communication infrastructure must be given utmost priority to reduce the cost of production. The government can also replicate

Viii. The manufacturing industries themselves must improve their energy efficiency and reduce their energy utilisation in the production processes through reduction in the use of diesel and petrol to remain competitive.

Ix. Rewarding firms that are already engaged in backward integration policy and assisting the firms in sorting out the issue of land with their host communities, where such firms are having difficulties with their host communities in their desire to engage in BIP. Industries should use local raw materials where such raw materials can be substituted for imported raw materials. This would create jobs and employment for many unemployed Nigerians.

As long as these industries remains non-functional, the attainment of rapid industrial and economic transformation would be a mirage. Reviving the moribund industries would thus help boost manufacturing activities (increase individual industries value added and the sector's contribution to GDP); increase the capacity of industries to provide jobs for millions of Nigerian youths thereby helping to tackle unemployment in the country; diversify the Nigerian economy; transform and thus insulate the Nigerian economy from external shocks (either from oil price fluctuations or future pandemic).

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Appendix 1: Some Moribund Industries in Nigeria

S/No	Firms	Nature of Business	Reasons for their Failure
1	Lennards Nigeria Plc., Ojota, Lagos	Manufacturing, marketing and distribution of shoes	High consumption of 'Ponmo' (hides and skins for food , tough investment climate, high borrowing cost
2	Footwear and Accessories Manufacturing and Distribution (FAMAD) Plc (formerly Bata Nig. Plc.)	Manufacturing, marketing and distribution of shoes	Poor management and decline in demand
3	African Paint Nigeria Plc., Oregun, Lagos	Manufacturing, marketing and distribution of paints	Persistent operating losses in business.
4	Berec Nigeria limited	Manufacturing and marketing of Batteries	Influx of Smuggling (imported) and cheap batteries into the country
5	Arewa Textiles mills	Manufacturing, and marketing of textiles	High cost of production and the cheap imports from Asia
6	Afprint Nigeria Plc., Isolo, Lagos	Manufacturing of textile and clothing materials and vegetable	High cost of production and the cheap imports from Asia
7	Aswani Textile	Manufacturing, and marketing of textile	High cost of production and the cheap imports from Asia
8	Jos International Breweries, Jos	Brewering and marketing of beer	High cost of production, and shrink in demand for the products
9	Golden Guinea Breweries, Umuahia	Brewering and marketing of beer	High cost of production, and shrink in demand for the products
10	Premier Breweries Plc, Onitsha	Brewering and marketing of beer	High cost of production, and shrink in demand for the products
11	Nigerian Wire and Cable Plc., Ibadan, Oyo State	Manufacturing and sales of electrical and telecommunication wires and cables.	Influx of fake wire and cables into the country

12	Nigerian Wire Industry Plc.,Ikeja, Lagos	Manufacturing of wire nails and other wire products	Influx of fake wire into the country
13	Iwopin Pulp and Paper Company Ltd., Iwopin, Ogun State	Bleach pulp	Poor funding, poor management and reliance on imported raw materials.
14	The Nigerian Newsprint Manufacturing Company, Oku Iboku, Awka -Ibom State	A newsprint mill	Lack of funds to clear imported raw materials at Calabar port in 1992 and inadequate fund to refurbish equipment.
15	Nigerian Paper Mills, Jebba, Kwara State	Kraft paper, liner and Chipboards, Sack Kraft, Fluting media and Corrugated cartons	Malfunctioning equipment and machinery and dearth of capital
16	Hallmark Paper Products, Mushi, Lagos	Paper Production and Conversion	Harsh business environment
17	Wiggins Teape Nigeria Plc.,Agbara Estate, Ogun State.	Manufacturing and Sales of Paper and Paper products	Harsh business environment
18	Enpee Industries Plc., Mushin, Lagos	Weaving, Dyeing of Textile	Smuggling of textiles into the country (cheap imports from Asia)
19	Asaba Textile Mills, Asaba, Delta State	Textile manufacturing	Smuggling of textiles into the country (cheap imports from Asia)
20	Aba Textile Mills, Aba, Abia State	Textile manufacturing	Smuggling of textiles into the country (cheap imports from Asia)
21	Tate and Lyle sugar company, Iganmu, Lagos	Production and packaging of granulated and liquid sugar	Financial Problems (Inability to repay ₦48 million bank loans to Devcom Merchant Bank)
22	Nigerian Sugar Compay Ltd,, Bacita, Kwara state	Production of sugar	Lack of local raw materials and management problems
23	Five-Star	Packaging	Unfavourable business environment
24	West African Glass Industry Plc.	Packaging	Unfavourable business environment
25	Nigerian Ropes Plc.	Ropes	High cost of production
26	Aluminium Manufacturing Company Plc. (ALUMACO Plc.), Apapa, Lagos	Manufacturing and marketing of Aluminum products, Construction & erection of Aluminium -based building, components and allied services.	High cost of imported aluminium raw materials

27	IPWA Plc.	Paints	Unfavourable business environment
28	Paints & Coatings Manufacturers Nigeria Plc.	Paints	Unfavourable business environment

Source: Oshodi, 2019: 187, Author's Compilation