

# EFFECT OF TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP, INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY AND POLITICAL COMPETITION ON CORPORATE PERFORMANCE OF NIGERIA NATIONAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION

**OSUAGWU JUSTINE UGOCHUKWU** 

**GSM 2019 28** 



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By

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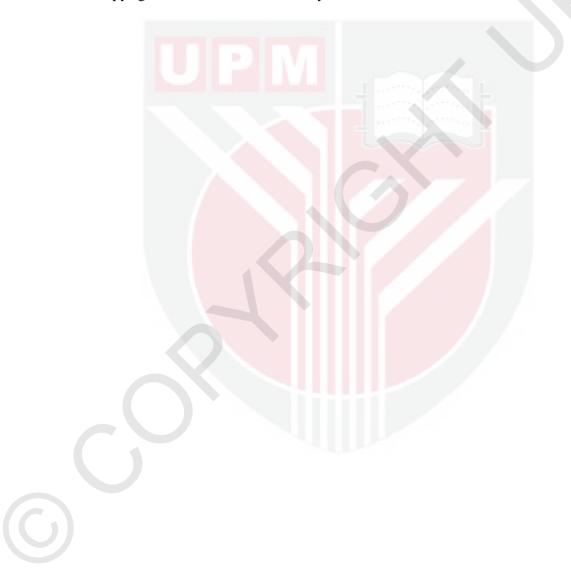
Thesis Submitted to the Putra Business School in Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science

April 2019

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# **DEDICATION**

This thesis is dedication:

My Family

My beloved mother: Ezi-Nne (Mrs) Osuagwu Grace A. My late father (Honourable Mr) Osuagwu Edwin Anaba I cannot pay all the love and supports I have received from you all, Thank you and Thank You. Dearest Sisters and Brothers: Ngozi, Charles, Agnes, Uloma, Nnamdi, Amuche, Nneka and Akuchi

My friend (Mentor) Dr. Sunday Sunday Akpan

For all the endless supports, encouragement, love and prayers.

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

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## **OSUAGWU JUSTINE UGOCHUKWU**

April 2019

Chairman: Mazlan Hassan, PhDFaculty: Putra Business School

Corporate performance is now widely recognized as the cause of organizational failure. Both academia and practitioners claim that corporate performance is underresearched. One of the corporate performance challenges facing NNPC is red tape, which imposes additional costs to the corporate. The aim of the study to examine the basic corporate performance challenges hindering NNPC in its attainment of organizational goals. This study addresses the issue on corporate performance by proposing mediators for transformational leadership; institutional quality and political competition; as possible factors that may affect corporate performance. This study then examines interrelationships between transformational leadership, institutional quality and political competition on corporate performance. This is a quantitative study. Three hundred and seventy questionnaires were distributed to employees of NNPC holding leadership position and 261 completed questionnaires were returned. The data was analyzed using regression model and Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling Techniques (PLS-SEM), and Smart PLS version 3.0 was the software used to run the analysis.

 $\bigcirc$ 

The study revealed that transformational leadership style directly influences corporate performance significantly, while institutional quality and political competition did not mediate the relationship between transformational leadership and corporate performance. However, institutional quality and political competition have direct positive and negative effect on corporate performance. In this study, there was no direct relationship between transformational leadership and institution quality as well as political competition but transformational leadership, institution quality and political competition have significant effect on corporate performance independently. The study found that the adoption of transformational leadership style and favorable political competitiveness are strategies of improving NNPC performance while institutional quality should be implemented if desirable performance of NNPC is expected in Nigeria.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

# KESAN KEPIMPINAN TRANSFORMASI, KUALITI INSTITUSI DAN PERSAINGAN POLITIK ATAS PRESTASI KORPORAT NIGERIA CORPORATION PETRONI NEGERI

Oleh

#### **OSUAGWU JUSTINE UGOCHUKWU**

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Buat masa ini prestasi korporat dilihat sebagai faktor kegagalan organisasi. Berkaitan ini, akademia dan pengamal industri menyatakan terdapat kekurangan kajian isu prestasi korporat. Tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk mengkaji halangan yang dihadapi oleh NNPC untuk mencapai matlamat organisasi. Isu prestasi korporat akan dikaji dengan mencadangkan kualiti institusi dan saingan politik sebagai mediator di antara kepimpinan transformasi dan prestasi korporat. Kajian ini juga akan mengkaji hubungan di antara kesemua variabel: kepimpinan transformasi, kualiti institusi, saingan politik dan prestasi korporat. Teori yang menjadi dasar kepada kajian ini adalah Teori Asas-Sumber (Resouce-based Theory), Teori Kepimpinan Administratif, dan Teori Institusi. Inilah adalah kajian kuantitatif. Tiga ratus tujuh puluh soalselidik telah diedarkan kepada pekerja NNPC yang berada di peringkat pemimpin. Dua ratus enam puluh satu soalselidik telah dikembalikan. Data telah dianalisa menggunakan PLS\_SEM dan perisian SmartPLS versi 3.0.

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Hasil kajian mendapati kepimpinan transformasi mempunyai pengaruh signifikan ke atas prestasi korporat, manakala kualiti institusi dan saingan politik tidak mempunyai kesan mediasi ke atas hubungan di antara kepimpinan transformasi dan prestasi korporat. Walaubagaimanapun kualiti institusi dan saingan politik masing-masing mempunyai kesan langsung positif dan negatif ke atas prestasi korporat. Juga didapati, tiada hubungan langsung di antara kepimpinan transformasi dengan kualiti institusi dan saingan politik. Akan tetapi, secara berasingan, kepimpinan transformasi, kualiti institusi dan saingan politik mempunyai kesan signifikan ke atas prestasi korporat. Kesimpulannya, kajian ini mendapati bahawa kepimpinan transformasi dan saingan politik yang sihat boleh dijadikan strategi untuk meningkatkan prestasi NNPC manakala untuk menjangkakan prestasi lebih baik NNPC di Nigeria, kualiti institusi sebaiknya dilaksanakan.

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All my thanks go to my church, my family, my friends and Putra business School, may Almighty God richly bless everyone. I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 2 April 2019 to conduct the final examination of Osuagwu Justine Ugochukwu on his thesis entitled "Effect of Transformational Leadership, Institutional Quality and Political Competition on Corporate Performance of Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation" in accordance with the Universities and University College Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P. U. (A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Master of Science.

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### **CHAPTER 1**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This section consists of ten (10) sections. The first segment (Section 1.1) introduces the setting of the study. The second section (Section 1.2) highlights the statement of problems for the present study. Section 1.3 presents the study questions. Section 1.4 presents research objectives. Segment 1.5 presents the hypothesis. Section 1.6 presents scope of the study. Section 1.7 presents significance of the study. Section 1.8 presents definitions of terms used throughout this study. Section 1.9 presents organization of the study and lastly 1.10 present's summary of this chapter 1.

## 1.1 Background to the Study

The growth of any economy depends to a large extent on the leadership and management of state institutions, politics, and resources. The stigmatization of most African countries as a microcosm of corruption and the darkest continent of the world is inseparable from the quality of institutions at all levels and the leadership of governance. The health of the nation is dependent on the health of its institutions manned by individuals (leaders), leadership thus play a desperate role in industrial transformation, socio-economic development, and economic growth. This is because organizations operate as trustees of public good to change performance in response to both internal and external pressure for sustainable development (Edwards, Knight, Broome, & Flynn, 2010). The drive for effective leadership results in the emergence of numerous leadership styles. One of the most favored styles or approaches in an organizational setting by practice and empirical evidence is transformational leadership (TFL) because it is human and humane in content and is also a relationshipbased approach to leadership (Katou, 2015). TFL is considered an approach where leaders inspire their employers to perform beyond expectations (Pillai, 2013). It is also an approach where leaders organize their struggles to reform associations by raising employers' perception outside personal interests and be more aligned with corporate goals and vision (Edwards et al., 2010).

TFL is believed to have a wide range of potential for enhanced organizational performance. It can make an organizational strategic change (Waldman, Javidan, &Varella, 2006), alter staff perceptions and increase satisfaction (Aarons, 2006; Judge, & Piccolo, 2004), reduce stress, burnout, and turnover intentions (Martin R, & Epitropaki, 2001). One of the earliest studies that placed transformational leadership at the forefront of performance drivers was Burns (1978). Burns exemplified TFL as causing a change in the individual and social system. The author described these leaders as change agents in the life, aspirations, and expectations of people and organization, transforming business processes, moulding perceptions and values of employees. He additionally noted that they are idealized individuals because they are an ethical model of operational towards the advantage of the group, organization and the community. According to Pawar (2016), 'focusing on transformational leadership

is the sole biggest mode to impact a firm; and there is no restriction to the imminent of firms that enlisted people better than average individuals, raises them up as leaders, and every now and again develop them'. Pawar (2016) identified and explained elements of TFL that integrate and cause an effective change in firms' performance.

These elements include individualized consideration, inspirational motivation, idealized influence, and intellectual stimulation. In this study, we consider transformational leadership to be an approach where the leader influences the followers by motivating and inspiring them to do more on expected work. A leader identifying and reaching out to the emotions of the followers can also be described in this context as a transformational leader. Transformational leaders, in this sense, engage workers and make them less reliant on the leaders by assigning noteworthy specialist to people, creating followers abilities and boldness, making self-guided groups, giving direct access to important data, wiping out unnecessary control, and building a solid group, worker strengthening organization (Barling et al., 1996; Bass, 1985a).

Transformational leadership has been proven to work under public sector settings (Park, 2008; Weibel, 2007). It motivates the employees to be more dedicated and committed exceedingly to the leader's task and to make a huge sacrifice in the light of a legitimate concern for the attainment of the set mission. As studied by Wright & Pandey (2010), this importance on a mission may make transformational leadership well matched to the public sector, whose workers are inalienably required to see past self-enthusiasm to the success of the bigger group. Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) as a quasi-public sector organization fit in this context of a discussion on TFL. However, empirical study of the effect of TFL on the performance of NNPC appears to be inadequate because of in-spite of the several leadership programs aimed at transforming the organization, leadership at NNPC is still observed to be ineffective as evidenced in its perennial underperformance (Nwokeji, 2007).

For instance, programmes such as the structural division used by NNPC in 1979, which created five semi-autonomous sectors in 1985 was some sort of reform to strengthen the organization on capitalization, commercialization and reorganization inventiveness beginning from March 1988 (Nwokeji, 2007). Similarly, another programme called total quality management culture was imbued in 1995 with the aim of lowering the cost of attaining customer satisfaction and management quality (Okoye, 2010). According to Omoregie (2001), these programmes all failed because of ineffective leadership, among other factors.

Moreover, in 2004 another programme called Project PACE was implemented to create and align NNPC with global trends in corporate leadership and management. As explained by Ikoko (2006), the main reason for project PACE was to strengthen NNPC so that it can perform more when compared to other national oil firms. According to Makeri (2009), project PACE was carried out successfully yet it was discovered that NNPC still failed in some area likes inadequate leadership, accountabilities, weak culture, weak process enabler, ineffective managerial capacity

among others (NNPC, 2012). However, the proposal of TFL as a recipe for better performance remained uncertain. Some empirical studies have found TFL to positively relate to corporate performance in terms of creativity and innovativeness both at organizational and followers' or individual level (Gumusluoglu & Ilsev, 2009). Katou (2015) has also identified other dimensions of organisational performance that could be impacted by TFL. These dimensions include productivity, growth and creativity.

Productivity emphasizes organizational effectiveness in terms of its ability to meet goals and efficiency by means of using few possible resources to achieve the set objectives. Growth emphasizes development in terms of the organization's ability and capacity to meet future changes and trials and in terms of satisfaction of all members – customers, employees and stakeholders. Creativity emphasizes innovativeness (in terms of product or process) and quality (in terms of what percentage of the firm's product is of high quality) (Katou, 2015).

Some of the leadership challenges relating to the performance of NNPC are regular disruptions of production, inadequate development of native firms with operational abilities, red tape as well as inability to create natural gas resources to potential (Thurber et al., 2011). These challenges impose additional costs to the effective and efficient management of NNPC thus resulting in a significant negative impact on total revenue and undesired performance. These dimensions are the core issues in TFL, which for research purposes must be linked to a specific firm and different settings. In-between TFL and corporate performance are important institutional and political factors that could explain better how a transforming leader can improve organizational performance. This was shown in a study carried out in Norway with focus on her Oil and Gas Company.

The achievement of Norway's OG sector is epochal and enviable in the development of the downstream sector. In what many authors have come to tag as "Norwegian Model", Thurber et al. (2011), found that political competition and institutional quality intervene in the outcome of administrative design on the performance of the Norwegian oil sector. Institutional quality is about the country's bureaucratic capability endowment that allows for effective and durable policy and service delivery; while political competition is concerned with the possibility of an executive and his or her cohorts guaranteeing organizational sovereignty (Thurber et al., 2011). The effect of political competition and institutional quality on the performance of NNPC is well documented in past studies (Thurber et al., 2011; and Nwokeji, 2007). The Glowing Norway oil industry began with the implementation of formal organizational relationship, which was first implemented by the Nigerian government a year behind after which the Nigerian government decided to participate directly in oil affairs. The next section presents the background of NNPC.



### 1.1.1 Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation

NNPC was founded in 1977 as a state-controlled and owned company. It is a noteworthy member in both the up and downstream sectors of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry (OGI). Being a requirement for linking the (OPEC) in 1971, and in accordance with 1971 decree 18, Nigeria recognized an incorporated oil company called NNOC (Ayoade 2009; Gboyega et al., 2011). Also, in accordance with Nigerian Economic Development Plan for four years then, the NNOC was instructed to partake in all the 19 zones of the oil and gas production, comprising, midstream, downstream and upstream sectors.

Moreover, the organization sought to be independent and convey linkages in economic between the gas and oil business and other segments of the economy in Nigeria (Iledare, 2010). Nevertheless, Nwokeji (2007) and Gboyega et al. (2011) conveyed that (NNOC) was not capable to effectively and efficiently carry out these purposes because of inadequate technical know-how, insufficient funding; poor handling mechanism and needless organizational intrusion by the (FMPR). Thus, the federal administration, finished the NNPC Act of 1977, combined NNOC and FMPR in 1977 to form NNPC, and ceded to it the power of handling and controlling the downstream and upstream sectors of the country's gas and oil sector (Nwokeji, 2007). Thus, The NNPC carried all liabilities and assets that belonged to the two merged groups and joined the operational and commercial purposes of the NNOC with policymaking and regulatory roles of FMPR (Nwokeji 2007; Ayoade, 2009). As an office that is accountable as the pillar of the economy, the NNPC is huge to the Nigerian socio-economic growth.

Thus, NNPC operates under the following institutional arrangements, affiliates and linkages: (KRPC), (IDSL), (NPDC), (NETCO), (PPMC), Duke Oil, (IDSL), (HYSON), Nigerian Gas Company (NGC), Warri Refinery and Petrochemical Co. Limited (WRPC), (PHRC), the (DPR), NNPC Retail, Duke Oil (NNPC 2012). All things considered, the legislature on the NNPC Act of 1977 mandated the NNPC with different obligations and legitimate forces, to empower it and ensure the enthusiasm of Nigeria in both the downstream and upstream segments of the oil and gas business. These are the operations and activities of the upstream sector; Geological work, operational drilling, production and exploration, obtain seismic data, survey geodetic and civil engineers arranging and locating site for drilling and survey (Ehinomen, 2012). The downstream sector formed the basis of this investigation, hence the need for more explanation.



# **1.1.2** Motivation for the study

NNPC is a vital institution in the Nigerian economy. It is responsible for managing crude oil and gas affairs to the benefit of the nation. Sadly, evidence of institutional leadership inefficiency abounds at NNPC. For instance, the Nigeria Climate Reports (2009, p. 6) described NNPC as "a typical state institution that operates as a huge amorphous cost centre with little or no sensitivity to the bottom-line".

In the study, NNPC was said to underperform, as it could not refine crude oil for local consumption even after it has received and spent over \$1 billion in repairing the country's formal functioning refineries between 1999 and 2007; yet the oil refineries still do not task sufficiently (Nwokeji, 2007). In the World Development Indicators (2016), the volume of production and consumption of petroleum product chart shows that consumption is higher than production in Nigeria compared to other African countries like Egypt and Algeria. The inability of NNPC to meet domestic consumption is attributable to inefficiency, which sits on the leadership of the corporation. However, the leadership itself suffers from lots of institutional and political incursions such that even in eras of formal controlling oversight (the present one), the regulator (NNPC leadership) has not able to secure adequate resources to viably supervise and control the oil business. The principal reason for this is that, the political system in Nigeria is built on some sort of patronage network fuelled by oil income, and those in authority lack the enthusiasm to support the improvement of a truly self-governing regulator that could oblige their ability to influence the operation of NNPC (Thurber et al., 2010).

This inability has led the country to import about 80% refined petroleum product for local consumption (Sanders, 2010). Gillies (2009) described this, as a typical case of persistent mismanagement due, probably in part, to the kind of leadership that the corporation has been placed under. World Development Indicators (2016) chart present the volume of petroleum import (in Dollars) shows the trend of this importation for the past fifteen years and it was indicated that Nigeria is the highest importer of petroleum product in Africa, even when it has remained the highest maker of crude oil in the continent. This signifies the inefficiency of NNPC to live up to its purposes. Excepting from 2008, Nigeria has been on top of the ladder in fuel importation. Only after 2008 that Nigeria takes the lead signifying that the same situation faced in Nigeria is also faced by Algeria. Lamenting on the plight that Nigerian have gone through economically with its vast natural resource, Okpanachi & Andrews (2012) implicitly referred to Nigeria as "petroleum-cursed-state" in Africa probably due to the leadership and management of the country's trustee of a national treasure - NNPC.

Given the above situation in NNPC, it becomes expedient to investigate the influence and potentials of TFL at improving the performance of NNPC. Not only is it painful that Nigeria is described and seen as a "resource cursed nation" in Africa due to persistent mismanagement of NNPC (Okpanachi & Andrews, 2012). It is said that NNPC has been orchestrated as a basket of what the "resource curse" thesis put forward by several authors as "woes of resource abundance' in Nigeria. For instance, Ross (2001) argued that resource abundance inhibits democracy by increasing the distributive influence of the elites Lam & Wantchekon (2003) or by causing 'a halt' in democratic era due to: a) a blend of tenure advantage, political uncertainty, and suppression (Wantchekon, 2002); b) armed conflict (Collier &Hoeffer2005); c) corruption (Vicente, 2007); d) disappointment in investing adequately in human capital and education (Gylfason, 2001); and, e) shadowy group transparency (Durnev *et al* 2009).



The decay and negative effect of mismanagement of NNPC are quite telling such that Okpanachi & Andrews (2012) who examined the emerging complexities and dynamics in Ghana's oil production had to warn Ghana to beware of five key areas that have doomed the NNPC's management. These areas are the growth of oilproducing areas, management of oil revenues, legal-regulatory framework, corporate social responsibility, and oil–civil society link. He advised that Ghana must give urgent thoughts to these issues in order to influence its newfound oil well and prevent the resource curse enigma that stigmatized Nigeria.

This advice began with having a leader with the vision to see these goals of superior revenue, community and societal development, legitimate and lawful operation and with the prowess and charisma to integrate these goals and cause desired actions among employees to work harmoniously toward effective and efficient attainment. The importance of TFL in engendering organizational performance is well documented and empirical evidence abounds of a significant positive relationship. However, to date, there is little known about transformational leadership practice within and in relation to the performance of NNPC. Given the speedy changes happening within the global oil and gas market and the high expectations from NNPC, it has become clear that there is a need for leadership that will generate and garner ideas, task the status quo, promote innovation, motivate and empower workers to take on tasks and find creative solutions to organizational problems. While it is likely that officials at some levels may use transformational approaches, it is also likely that numerous may not probably due to institutional, organizational and political barriers.

Although there is a dearth of empirical evidence that NNPC would perform better under a transforming leader, it is believed that TFL could mitigate some problems of NNPC and give more benefit to it through such TFL practices as creative problem solving, developing and engaging current staff in the process of management among others. Whether this belief is true or not is dependent on the outcome of this investigation as dedicated empirical literature addressing this interest are scarce.

#### **1.2 Problem statement**

Organizations today are confronting increased uncertainty in results of their activities. Brown and Duguid (2000) Grant (1996b) and Spender (1996) recognized that generic management goal is to enhance the corporation "wisdom" to empower basic leadership, and increase creativity, performance and so on. Globally, some national oil companies have in recent time suffered challenges of performance, and some of the areas that have been subdued in corporate performance are as follows: Mexico; Little of domestic technical capability (Thurber et al. 2011), Russia; government focused on reconsolidating control over oil (Micheal, 2006), Venezuela; domestic technical capacity (Thurber *et al.*, 2011). Different approached has been deployed to see what measurement will suit in solving this pronounced corporation performance issues in national oil companies at the world stage but Thurber *et al.* (2011) observed that the above countries have not done much. Africa national oil companies are not exceptions, according to (Santos & Brito, 2012). Santos & Brito (2012). Emphasized

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that; no particular approach has been empirically proven as the authentic measurement of corporate performance.

In Africa, Marcel (2005) examined the national oil company in Algeria and found that 'no positive change over time' is among one of the challenges that are hindering the progress of performance in the organization. Also, Robert (2006) found that local consumption was higher than production in Egypt, thereby making production a challenge to its national oil company as well as a benchmark of performance. These are indicators of corporate performance setback. NNPC also has such issues in Nigeria. For instance, Nwokeji (2007) found one of the performance challenges facing NNPC was red tape, which imposes additional costs to the corporate and limited growth of domestic companies with operational volumes Thurber et al. (2011). Additionally, Thurber et al. (2011) opined that 'frequent disruptions to production were another dimension of challenges facing NNPC performance; which, in the end, result in low production capacity. At the heart of these challenges was the fact that the leadership of NNPC has been underrated, and this signifies practical case of leadership problem in the corporation, which deserves an empirical investigation (Munir, Rahman, Malik, & Ma'amor, 2012). On this basis, Munir et al. (2012) the authors opined that the leadership of an organization has some meaningful influence on corporate performance of the organization. It seems that NNPC is facing leadership issues. Undesired corporate performance is generally attributed directly to the poor leadership of the organization and indirectly to the intervening roles of institutional qualities and political completion as explained subsequently. On the issue of poor leadership, it is argued that the level of leadership challenges is generating efficiency in the corporate performance of organization of the Nigerian OGI (NNPC, 2012).

As earlier mentioned, in 1995, NNPC adopted TQM to strengthen its leadership (Okoye, 2010). Unfortunately, evidence from past reports and empirical studies show that NNPC is a failure compared to its counterparts such as Petrobras, Petronas, and Statoil in Brazil, Malaysia and Norway respectively (NNPC, 2012c; Adam, 2014). But still, the challenges identified as responsible for this failure is poor leadership (Abisoye oke, 2013). Note also that Ghana that recently discovered oil is said to be learning from NNPC's failure and the 'cabbages' and woes in Nigeria's downstream sector (Eyene, 2014).

Leadership issues in NNPC were reportedly in the media and government portals, For instance, the former governor of Central Bank of Nigeria, Lamido Sanusi disclosed that \$20 billion dollars generated from oil sales were not remitted into the treasury (Charles et al., 2016) and around 1970, mid 2004, over \$450 billion in oil cash flowed into government coffers, but the funds disappeared into private pockets and this has raised the question about the type of leadership in relation to its accountability, transparency as well as inefficiency in the management of the nation's economy (Ayittey 2002). As stated earlier, in similar studies (Olayinka, 1997; Thurber et al., 2011), leadership of NNPC was described as crippling and weak as there were rampant cases of limited growth of national companies with active operational capacities, red tape, disruptions of production, etc. (Bass, & Avolio 2000). On the indirect effect of institutional qualities, it is to be noted prima facie that a number of measures have

been used as mediators of TFL-performance relationship. These include job satisfaction and sub-mediating variables like trust in the team (at the team level) and trust in the individual (at an individual level) as well as work engagement (Susanne, 2013; Snjezana, 2013).

In all, finding indicated that these factors 'job satisfaction' has a positive mediating effect on the connection between TLF and corporate performance. This suggests that other factors could account for why a leader may not lead an organization to better performance. In this study, one of the factors is institutional quality, which was examined by Thurber et al. (2011) Norway. It has also been empirically proven by many scholars that institutional quality is viable to undertake meaningful stake in the task of institutional objectivity of a firm. Tun et al. (2012) contend that nations with better institutional quality ought to have the option to pull in greater investment because of decreases in both the expense of doing business and in uncertainty. Maruta, A. A. (2018) recent studies show that higher institutional quality leads nations to full profit from openness strategies. Other scholars like Belkhir et al., (2016); Oztekin and Flannery, (2012) Fan et al., (2012) found out that institutional quality; the main aim is to emphasis on institutional issues as a factor of organization's capital structure.

Meanwhile, Galinato et al (2018) suggested that Institutional quality might be based on the capacity of the bureaucracy to minimize the outcomes of policy revisions. It is obvious that an adequate institutional quality will result in greater leadership and corporate performance. Furthermore, Thunder et al (2011) studied the mediation effect of political competition and institutional quality and on the relationship between administrative design and performance; findings show that these variables had a significant result on mediating the relationship between administrative design and performance of Statoil in Norway. This has led the researcher to include another factor of interest in that study, which is political competition. Empirical studies that show political competition is relevant in organizational settings, Alfano (2015) concluded that political competition should be centered on welfare to the citizens by institutional and corporate administrations. Besley et al., (2010) proposed that higher political competition is related to a change in the policy mix towards strategies that are generally believed to be growth-promoting. In this research, political competition stands in a mediating role, that is to say, a transformational leader will be ready to dislodge the typical stereotypes of a political competitor by allowing both the organization and government to intertwine. The above sentence stands with what Carlin et al., (2018) said, Political competition, we estimate, actuates party-based stereotypes of reliability that inspire partisan trust taste: co-partisans trust each other more than they trust competing partisans.

Furthermore, another study by Hobolt and Klemmensen (2008) on political competition role in the contest of responsibilities of the government, the researchers reiterated that higher levels of political competition should theoretically yield more executive action and more policies. Kosec et al., (2018) asked a unique question "Can stronger political competition improve rural livelihoods in developing countries especially in Pakistan" results show that greater political competition significantly

contributed to better access to publicly given framework and comforts. With the above studies, political competition strategies can help leaders to straighten organizational politics that will occur in the attainment of organizational performance.

Furthermore. Thurber et al (2011), empirical studies and other have done well enough in identifying inefficient leadership and its attendant consequences, but what is not clear is the type of behavior that each leader exhibit and how such behavior has led to the growing problems and ultimately poor performance of NNPC. Thurber et al (2011), argued that no leadership style can work effectively in an organizational environment with highly complex institutional and political restrictions. Therefore, integrating the institutional complexities (e.g. institutional quality) and political restrictions (e.g. political competition) as mediators in the connection between TFL and corporate performance could best explain the path toward effective performance in NNPC. This is because without enabling good institutional quality (IQ) and political competition (PC), the leader may not have the capacity to perform. Thus, investigating the mediation effect of IQ and PC in the connection between TFL and performance of NNPC is also imperative. On grounds of the above-listed problems, and from a theoretical perspective, it becomes very imperative to carry on this research which its outcome will help policymakers in understanding transformational leadership and the intervening factors in relation to the management and performance of NNPC in Nigeria.

These researchers went on to specify that TFL is only leadership style that can promote greater performance more than other leadership styles such as laissez-faire and transactional. However, while transformational leadership effect on the performance of organization have prominently been researched in private sector organization, it seems to has been neglected in past studies involving a quasi-public organization like NNPC probably due to the disconnections that existed between leadership practices of public and that of private organizations.

This further point to some fundamental factors that have become parochial for the emergency of the above-identified problems of NNPC that are attributed to leadership inefficiency which has formed a major issue of significant focus in this research. From the above arguments, there are some uncertainties surrounding transformational leadership and the performance of NNPC in Nigeria. These uncertainties coupled with a number of concerns on the why NNPC is said to have underperformed in Nigeria despite its cardinal role in the economy constitute the imperatives and rationale for carrying out this investigation now that the government is contemplating reforms in many sectors in order to reposition the economy and country on the path to enviable development. For instance, it is argued that TFL can lead to an improvement in corporate performance in NNPC is not only scarce but also limited. This has left policy-makers and corporate managers with virtually no reliable and workable data and information on how to better manages the corporation toward the attainment of its corporate goals.



Other two important uncertainties are the absence of empirical evidence on the outcome of institutional quality and political competition on the connection between TFL and performance of NNPC. This laxity has also left policy-makers and corporate managers with no data and information on how to better manage the corporation amidst all institutional complexities and political forces that operate to either obstruct or enhance the performance of government agencies in Nigeria such as NNPC. Knowing the level to which these intervening factors can influence the attainment of desired corporate performance of NNPC could serve as a map that shows the direction and way toward a better or improved organizational management.

# **1.3** Research questions

To address the various research issues mentioned above, this study seeks answers to the following research questions:

- 1. What is the relationship between transformational leadership and corporate performance of NNPC?
- 2. What is the intervention effect of political competition on the relationship between Transformational leadership and performance of NNPC?
- 3. What is the intervention effect of institutional quality on the relationship between Transformational leadership and performance of NNPC?

# 1.4 Research objectives:

To provide answer to the above research questions and solutions to the identified research problems, this study generally sets out to examine the interrelationships among transformational leadership, institutional quality, political competition, and corporate performance of NNPC. However, specific objectives are to:

- 1. Investigate relationship concerning transformational leadership and corporate performance of NNPC
- 2. Examine the mediation outcome of political competition on the relationship between transformational leadership and performance of NNPC.
- 3. Examine the intervention effect of institutional quality on the relationship between transformational leadership and performance of NNPC.

# 1.5 Hypotheses

Because of the above research objective, the following hypotheses are formulated to control this investigation:

- H1: There is a significant positive relationship between transformational leadership and corporate performance of NNPC.
- H2. Political competition intervenes the connection concerning corporate performance and transformational leadership of NNPC.
- H3. Institutional quality mediates the relationship between transformational leadership and corporate performance of NNPC.

# **1.6** Scope of the study

This study focuses on three variables affecting successful corporate performance namely transformational leadership, institutional quality and, political competition. The focus is directed to these three constructs because it has been empirically proven that these factors play a significant role in determining corporate performance. This research was done on employees of NNPC in Nigeria and their affiliates with leadership position as a subject of research since they played the most important role in corporate performance processes. Employees with leadership-position were chosen as the unit of analysis in this study. The list of respondents is abstracted from the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation published by Nigeria Business Search Engine. The employees with leadership position are selected to be the respondents in this study because they are in a unique position to create psychologically healthy workplaces, they have the authority and power to implement practices and change procedures in their organizations (Gulseren et al., 2019)

The study was carried out in Nigeria with NNPC and their affiliates as the institution of the investigation. The locations of the entities were in Abuja the capital territory of Nigeria and the south-south region in Nigeria, which includes River state, Delta State, Akwa Ibom State, and Edo states. The data collection was conducted over a period of 2 months (3rd December 2016 to 5th February 2017). The study covers leadership qualities of NNPC focusing on TFL in relation to its corporate performance with institutional quality and political competition as mediating variables.

# **1.7** Significance of the study

This research shows the basic significance measurement of the study. Important contribution of each of the dimensions will not be over emphasize, kindly see the various aspect of contribution.

# **1.7.1** Theoretical significance

Successful completion of this study will make a useful contribution to existing theories in management via theory extension. It has been observed that past studies on TFL and performance of a quasi-public sector organization like NNPC are scarce, so are the theories employed in studying this phenomenon. Including institutional complexities and political restrictions and using relevant theories such as the resource base theory, institutional theory, etc will be novel. Making a sound and justifiable arguments for the inclusion of these theories in this study will make a significant contribution by extending and integrating existing theories to explain the complex relationship between TFL and corporate performance. This way, the body of literature in this area will be extended and the academicians will also benefit by using it as a source of material for future studies.

### **1.7.2 Management: Organisation (NNPC)**

The first groups of the beneficiary will be organizational management. The inclusion of institutional quality and political competition as a separate construct with transformational leadership will provide useful information to the management of NNPC in the area of organizational politics and institutional restraints and how to develop coping strategies in order to be successful. The management and particularly the leadership of NNPC will come to term with real practical issues to consider when attempting attaining set goals and expectations of the corporation. Therefore, by exposing the intricacies of organizational management relating to the polity and rules or statutes of the institutions in the OGI in Nigeria the leader will better be informed and prepared to lead the corporation in the right direction.

#### 1.7.3 Management: Policy maker

To policy-makers, there will be imperatives for strengthening policy reforms and implementation to improve the performance of the oil and gas sector. Key areas that policy-makers will benefit will be in the area of institutional quality principles. Institutional quality in the oil sector in Nigeria has been a big issue but with this research, both the policy-maker and the government will appropriately pursue organizational goals. For instance, anywhere there are strong and supportive institutional qualities, the labour force tends to play a significant role and show more commitment to the organizational task even when the political complexities are less On the other hand, Kark (2003), discussed supportive (Thurber, 2011). transformational leadership in the context of dependency and empowerment on leadership after testing 888 bank employees working under 76 branch managers, finding shows transformational leadership has a positive relationship with these two elements. It is imperative that the findings of this study may cause policy-makers to rethink and enact dependency and empowerment in a leader that will enable execute there given task. They government could formulate an accelerated program that will enable the leader in oil sector act progressively thereby straightening the institution.



## **1.7.4** Industry players (Practical)

Another category of beneficiaries is the management of firms in the oil sector in Nigeria. Presently, little or no design of any transformational leadership dimensions with an external variable like political competitive and institutional quality has been studied on the oil sector in Africa. Dvir (2002) tried the effect of transformational leadership, improved via preparing, on worker's advancement and execution. Trial group leader got transformational leadership preparing, and control group leaders, varied leadership preparing. The specimen included 54 army leaders, their 90 coordinate workers, and 724 roundabout supporters. The result presented the leaders in the exploratory gathering had a more encouraging effect on uninterrupted supporters' improvement and on unintended devotees' execution than did the leaders in the regulator assemble. Therefore, it essential that under this circumstances management and leadership.

## **1.8** Definition of Terms

**Transformational Leadership** – This is defined as an approach where leaders assemble their strengths to reform organizations by raising followers' consciousness beyond personal interests and be more aligned with corporate goals and vision (Edwards *et al.*, 2010)

**Institutional quality -** Institution quality can be defined as an arrangement of social variables such as rules, beliefs, qualities and associations that together inspire normality in individual and social conduct (Greif, 2006).

**Political Competition** – This is defined as the chances that a political executive, his or her cohorts and party in power will guarantee corporate sovereignty by not interfering in the management and operation of the firm in a manner that affects members of that organization to act in his or her favour against public good (Thurber *et al.*, 2011)

**Corporate performance**: This can be defined as subset of business insight and business analytics, which concerns the "wellbeing" of the company Margaret (2017).

# **1.9** Organization of the study

The content and discussions in this study are organized into six chapters. Chapter one consists of the introduction, motivation of the study, problem statement, research question, research objective, the scope of the study, the significance of the study, definition of terms and organization of this study. Chapter two contains the review of literature on transformational leadership, institutional quality, political competition

and relevant concepts. It also contains a review of empirical studies and, relevant supporting theories.

Chapter three presents the theoretical explanation in each of the variables, hypothesis and conceptual framework, Chapter four present the methodological issues including but not limited to research design, population, sample and sampling design, source of data and method of data collection, instrumentation, scale measurement, method of data analysis, data analysis and etc. In chapter five, the data collected are presented; analysis and findings are also discussed in the light of past studies and theoretical predictions. Chapter six contains a summary of major findings, conclusion, limitation of the study, the implication of the study, and future research direction amongst others.

# 1.10 Chapter Summary

In this chapter, we have discussed the fundamental issues that informed the conduct of this study. The background discussion shows the relevance of the basic concepts and the need to employ these concepts in the Nigerian downstream sector with a view to finding a way to solve the perennial leadership problems in NNPC. We have also presented the core problems of the study, relevant questions and objectives sought to achieve in the study. The hypotheses have been formulated in line with the objectives to provide guide and direction for the research. The chapter also explains the significance and contribution of the study to the theory, management, policy makers and the body of academia. Finally, some terms which meaning are relevant to this study only have been stated and defined while how the grouping of thoughts and presentations of the content of the research report is also present.

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