

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND POLICY OUTCOMES OF
DELTA STATE OIL PRODUCING AREAS DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION, 2006-2021**

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MAY, 2023

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**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE
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AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, COVENANT UNIVERSITY
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MAY, 2023

ACCEPTANCE

This is to attest that this thesis is accepted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Policy and Strategic Studies in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership and Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria.

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DECLARATION

I, **OGHUVBU, EJIROGHENE AUGUSTINE (17PAK01577)**, declare that this research was carried out by me under the supervision of Prof. Daniel E. Gberevbie, of the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership and Development Studies, and Dr. Samuel O. Oni of the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership and Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria. I attest that this thesis has not been presented either wholly or partially for the award of any degree elsewhere. All sources of data and scholarly information used in this thesis are fully acknowledged.

OGHUVBU, EJIROGHENE AUGUSTINE

Signature and Date

CERTIFICATION

We certify that this thesis titled **PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND POLICY OUTCOMES OF DELTA STATE OIL PRODUCING AREAS DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (2006-2021)** is an original work carried out by **OGHUVBU, EJIROGHENE AUGUSTINE (17PAK01577)** of Policy and Strategic Studies Programme in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership and Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria under the supervision of Prof. Daniel E. Gberevbie and Dr Samuel O. Oni. We have examined the work and found it acceptable for the award of a degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Policy and Strategic Studies.

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my late father, Professor Enamiroro Patrick Oghuvbu.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BPP	-	Bureau of Public Procurement
CAPL	-	Gross Capital Formation
CCB	-	Code of Conduct Bureau
CCT	-	Code of Conduct Tribunal
CPI	-	Corruption Perception Index
DESOPADEC	-	Delta State Oil Producing Development Commission
DTHA	-	Delta State House of Assembly
EBP	-	Evidence Based Policies
EDI	-	Economic Development Institute
EFCC	-	Economic and Financial Crime Commission
EXTD	-	External Debt
FDI	-	Foreign Direct Investment
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
IADB	-	Inter-American Development Bank
ICPC	-	Independent Corrupt Practices Commission
IMC	-	Interim Management Committee
MDAs	-	Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
MS	-	Money Supply
NDDC	-	Niger Delta Development Commission
NEITI	-	Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
NPM	-	New Public Management
OBA	-	Outcome Based Accountability
OECD	-	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OPADEC	-	Oil Producing Area Development Commission
PCC	-	Public Complaints Commission
PINV	-	Public Domestic Investment
RBA	-	Result Based Accountability
SGI	-	Sustainable Governance Indicators
UNEMPL	-	Unemployment Rate
WGI	-	World Governance Indicators

ABSTRACT

The study examined the relationship between accountability and policy outcomes of Delta State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission (DESOPADEC) between 2006 and 2021, necessitated by the growing call for developing countries' public sectors, including Nigeria, to deliver top-notch public services that cater for citizens' needs, be more responsible for their choices and activities, and manage resources more wisely. The main objective of the study was to determine the relationship between public accountability and policy outcomes of the commission using a cross-sectional research design and insights from Agency-Stewardship theory as expounded by Michael Jensen and Thomas Jones as the framework of analysis. A total of 400 questionnaire were administered to five groups selected through a double-stage probability sampling technique, out of which 359 copies were recovered for analysis. Data analysis was done in two phases, quantitative and qualitative, using Version 21 of the IBM-Statistical Package for Social Sciences (IBM-SPSS). Also, the quantitative data analysis incorporated descriptive statistics, simple linear regression and Pearson Product Moment Correlation, while qualitatively, the data were presented in themes and analysed discursively. Findings showed that 62% of the respondents indicated that DESOPADEC is accountable to the host communities for services rendered, but the majority of them, with 64%, stated that DESOPADEC staff have a very narrow understanding of accountability. The result also revealed the policy implementation challenges confronting DESOPADEC in the oil-producing communities of Delta State. They include frequent state government interference (84%), policy inconsistency on the part of government which affects the commission's performance over the years (74%), lack of political will and abuse of power for personal gains among the staff of the commission (76%), and corruption and wastages among the commission staff leading to high cost of social amenities in oil host communities (78%). From Pearson correlation of -0.130, the findings further revealed that there is a significant and negative relationship between the challenges of policy implementation and policy outcomes in DESOPADEC. The study recommended that to avoid the challenges of accountability faced by DESOPADEC, effective law enforcement is essential to ensure adherence to laid out operational policies, rules and regulations, and mete out severe punishment on offenders to break the cycle of impunity. Also, reforms focusing on improving financial management and strengthening the role of auditing are essential for achieving greater efficiency in the agency to curb unethical behaviour. To combat unethical behaviour, the government must be open, allow press freedom, transparency, and access to information. Given these results, the study comes to the conclusion that accountability affects public policy outcomes just as it affects a society's socioeconomic well-being. In order to promote better outcomes for its citizens, the agency must incorporate accountability as an ethical practise in all its processes, from the formulation of policies to their implementation.

Keywords: Accountability, DESOPADEC, Delta State, oil-producing areas, policy outcomes, public policy