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RECAPITALISATION AND NIGERIAN CAPITAL MARKET DEVELOPMENT

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developing countries, domestic capital markets have fallen short of expectations in spite of the efforts for financing development. The recent Bank recapitalization has awakened us up about the market and the opportunity it offers for investors. The factors hindering the Nigerian capital market will help us to see why the capital market has not developed as expected.

paper examines the background leading to the new increase in the capital base of the Nigerian Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), the intended objectives for it and its benefit to the economy.

on a review of the historical perspective of the Nigeria Capital Development is under taken and benefits the present recapitalization has brought to the Nigerian capital market development is revealed. However, the advantages a well developed capital market confer on the economy is revealed.

It is seen that the depth of the capital market is a function of investment education and the publicity that creates for opportunities in the stock market.

INTRODUCTION

In 1999, the Basel committee issued a draft of the new capital accord for bank capital. This is to replace the 1988 accord. However, before full implementation was achieved, it brought out a second proposal in 2001, which extensively expanded the 1999 document. Following extensive and global comments, a consultative document was released on April 2003, (Imala 2004).

Following the release of the second consultative document on the new capital accord in January 2001, the CBN committee on supervision set up a committee for the implementation of the new accord in 2002. The accord committee hosted a well-attended workshop in August 2002 to sensitize the operators in the banking system to the implementation of the new accord, (Imala 2004). It is based on this that the new capital base of N25bn was reached for banks in Nigeria.

The NEEDS document also encourage an increased capital base for the financial institutions. Sobowale (2004) the NEEDS document promises to among other components of the strategic thrust.

The issue of low capitalisation, poor governance practices and of financial intermediaries that render the banking system to the regulatory authorities, and the consequent enormous costs of distress to the financial system, the announcement of the increase of paid up capital from N2 billion to N 25 billion was part of the strategic thrust that was announced in NEEDS.

Following the actual announcement of the upward review of the capital base from N2billion to N25billion and the appointment of Charles Soludo as the new Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria, it is posited that the decision is to encourage mergers and acquisition with a view to strengthening the banking industry. It is envisaged that this will enhance efficiency, size, and the roles of the banks. The protagonists of recapitalization claim it is a global phenomenon which can be left out.

That one bank in South Africa has larger assets than all 89 banks in Nigeria combined. And that is an important ingredient for success in the globalizing world. According to Soludo, it is the Nigerian banking system to voluntarily embarked on consolidation in line with the global trend and the need for legal and supervisory frameworks to facilitate same.

Therefore, it is clear that the consolidation is to achieve four basic things- viz. the removal of excess of banks, to create room for mergers and acquisition and to enable banks have the capacity to compete in the real sector of the economy. In addition, that our banks will be financially solid to compete in the global market.

Study

The objectives of this paper include:

- The background leading to the recapitalisation
- The intended objectives for it and its benefit to the economy

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financially induced to endorse documents indicating all is well only for the same banks to be declared distressed after a short time is unpardonable. With the same crop of people still in the employment of these institutions, recapitalization may not necessarily strengthen the banking system.

Presently banks engage in non-banking functions like selling of phone recharge cards and examination forms. With more money coming in from this recapitalization, they may be tempted to go into more trading, that is, buying and selling rather than finance economic activities that would revitalize the economy.

One of the evil effects of liberalized financial system is capital flight. Given the great disparity in foreign exchange, an investor from foreign exchange advantaged country with little amount invested in Nigeria will own large shares and invariably have colossal sum of dividend earned and transferred to his home country. Also this outflow increases through time.

This is bound to encourage money laundry as dubious investors with money can float companies abroad and use them to transfer foreign currency to the country under the disguise of foreign direct/portfolio investment in our banks. Also it will increase inflow of foreign goods in the economy as the banks will have much money to engage in direct

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The Nigerian Capital Market

The word "capital", used in this context, implies a long-term commitment on the part of the lender and a long-term need for the funds on the part of the borrower. Thus, strictly speaking the capital encompasses any transaction involving long-term debt or equity obligations. Luckett (1984). There are two segments of the capital market; the security market in which securities are used and the market for negotiated finance. The capital market for securities is further divided into two: the primary and secondary market. When new securities like shares, stock and bond are issued they are sold initially in the primary market. But when the holders of these securities want to resell them the securities are resold in the secondary market. Thus the primary market is a market for initial issue while the secondary market is a market for subsequent trading in securities. Anyanwokoro (1999).

The Nigerian Capital Market a Historical Perspective on Its Development

According to Dada (2003) The origin of the Capital Market started with the recommendation of Barback Committee in 1959. The first attempt at establishing an organized capital market began on September 15, 1960, with the incorporation of the Lagos Stock Exchange, through the joint effort of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Investment Company of Nigeria (later NIDB) and the Nigerian Business Community. Later, the exchange was statutorily empowered in 1961 by the enactment of the Lagos Stock Exchange Act. The exchange commenced operation on July 5, 1961 with thirteen securities. During the teething stage, the exchange received considerable financial and other assistance from government through the institutions referred to above.

Some major events occurred in 1962 which had salutary effects on the development of the infant market. These included the recall of Nigerian investments from London by Nigerian Produce Marketing Company (PMN), the promulgation of the Exchange Control Act 1962, and the establishment of the Capital Issues Committee (CIC) under the auspices of the Central Bank of Nigeria. Though without any legal backing, the CIC operated like an ad hoc consultative body to ensure the orderly development of the market by regulating share prices and timing of public issues of securities so as not to overtax the absorptive capacity of the budding capital market.

Despite these efforts, activities in the market were generally assessed to be low in the twelve years between 1967 and 1971, as the market was little known by the populace. Government remained a dominant player especially in the new issues market by regularly floating development loan stocks as a way of regulating the market. As at the end of 1971, government had floated 39 securities compared to 13 equities and 8 industrial loan stocks. Similarly, the market was characterized by few operators (10), no quoted indigenous company and poor infrastructural facilities.

However, government action in enacting the first Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Act (NEPA) in 1972 which obliged specified alien enterprises to indigenize part of their ownership, made a remarkably positive impact on the development of the market. Within three years of this enactment, twenty new companies were listed on the exchange, compared to thirteen in twelve years (1960-1971). Again, following the report of the panel set up in 1975 to review the 1972 indigenization exercise, the second Act was enacted in 1977 sensibly to correct the "failures" of the first exercise. The rejuvenated 1977 Act brought more companies into the market and consequently, more listings were recorded on the Exchange in years subsequent to its

opening the market. At the height of its compliance in 1979, 39 new companies were listed in that year alone.

Indigenization programme and government's deliberate floating of stocks, four other factors impacted positively on the development of the capital market as we have it today.

The Capital Issues Commission Act 1973, which formally established the Capital Issues Commission and introduced statutory regulation into the market. The functions were not in any way different from those of the defunct committee. For example, it continued the functions of determination of the time and time at which public issues of corporate securities were made.

The Okigbo Committee was set up to undertake a comprehensive review of the Nigerian capital market. With respect to the capital market, the committee made a number of recommendations, most of which were wholly or partially accepted. Amongst these were: establishment of the Securities Commission (SEC), to replace the Capital Issues Commission. Consequently, the Securities and Exchange Commission Act was enacted in 1979. The Act made SEC the apex regulatory body for the Capital Market in Nigeria. In addition to taking over the functions of the Capital Issues Commission, SEC was empowered to register securities, operators, stock exchanges and maintain the market to prevent abuse and practices that may be detrimental to the orderly operation of the Capital Market in Nigeria. In 1988, its functions were enlarged to include approval and registration of mergers and acquisitions and other forms of business combinations.

While the government accepted the need for the Stock Exchange to spread out, it however rejected the use of a Regional Exchange to achieve this objective. Rather, government established the Nigerian Stock Exchange with trading floors in Lagos, Kaduna, and Port-Harcourt. In mid-1980's, three more trading floors, Kano, Ibadan and Onitsha were added with an office in Yola. In 2004 a new trading floor was established in Benin city. In addition, a new exchange the Abuja stock exchange was established in 2004.

The Okigbo Committee also recommended a new secondary pricing system for Government stocks to make them more attractive in terms of maturity and yield of the instrument. Hitherto, it was priced at par, making them quite unattractive to investors.

The Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) was launched in 1986 to redress serious macro economic imbalances. The programme included the rationalization of the public sector through divestment of non-core assets and debt conversion programme. Consequently, government commenced the divestment of its interests in some public companies, some of which were effected through Offer for Shares. These shares to the investing public further increased the number of tradable securities and thus improved market depth.

As a result of SAP, the Second-tier Securities Market (SSM) was introduced to attract investors to the market which hitherto could not meet the more stringent listing conditions of the Nigerian Stock Exchange.

The number of tradable securities increased as a result of implementing SAP, with much wider impact on the capital market. In the post-SAP era, the market became a truly capitalist instrument for raising capital funds in the process of wealth creation rather than as a vehicle for wealth accumulation. SAP activities tended to portray Policies and strategies tended to be more market oriented. For example, the pricing function hitherto performed by SEC was transferred to market makers for new issues and stockbrokers for existing issues.) In addition, the deregulation of interest rates, which were the pillars of SAP, encouraged many companies to issue long-term funds which only the capital market could provide. Thus in the late 80s, the number of public issues in the market which further increased the market depth.

Efforts and Assessment Criteria

Efforts to widen, deepen and improve trading conditions in the Nigerian Stock Market. The Trust Scheme was launched in 1990 as a way to bring small investors indirectly to the Market. The period equally recorded a significant increase in the number of stockbrokers. The Stock Exchange launched the Central Securities Clearing System in 1990 in a more efficient securities settlement system. As a result of this innovation, the settlement period improved from T + 15 or more, in some cases in the past, to T + 5. The NSE also introduced the Automated Trading System (ATS) in 1988.

Table 1: NSE's Growth Trends 1961-2005

Parameter	1961	1971	1981	1991	1999	2005 As at Nov 7
No. of quoted companies	3	13	93	142	195	-
No. of listed securities	13	60	163	239	269	-
Total Mkt. capitalization (Billion N)	Na	Na	5.0	23.1	263.3	2.57 Trillion
Vol. of Securities traded (M)	334	952	Na	47.2	216	602.3
Value of Securities Traded (MMN)	2.3	18.1	332.1	265	136.3	7.73
Value of new shares (MMN)	Na	87	455	1870	3,954	-
NSE all Shares Index	Na	Na	Na	783	5266	25831.47
No. of Stock broking Firms	Na	Na	12	110	226	-

Source: NSE, SEC, IOS as cited by Dada (2003)

Table 1 compared the performance of the Nigerian capital between 1961 and 2005.

Based on the Table 1 above it can be seen that though the indices has shown an increase up there was a greater increase in all the indices by the year 2005 more than have happen before the increase volume of shares offered for sale by the different banks that went to the capital market to raise to meet the new recapitalisation amount

Reorganization of the Capital Market

In 1998 government decides to repeal all laws inhibiting competition. As a result, a Legal Committee set up to identify such laws. Twelve of such laws were identified for amendment and/or abrogation, in laws governing the Capital Market. It was in the spirit of liberalizing the economy that machinery was motion to reform, modernize and internationalized the Nigerian Capital Market and make it more responsive to the demands and challenges of the new millennium. Arising from these measures, the Abuja Stock Exchange was floated in 1998. The Central bank of Nigeria (CBN), National Insurance Corporation of Nigeria (NIC), Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC), and other interested private sector organizations advised by Government to take steps to implement the decision. Before that time, a panel with Dennis as Chairman, was set up to review the Nigerian Capital Market. Although neither the report of the panel the Government White Paper has been released, some aspects of the report that have become knowledge are set below.

- proposal to set up a new Stock Exchange and rename the current Stock Exchange
- issues of Administration and Government of the Stock Exchange in particular and the capital market general; and
- the urgent need to achieve rapid growth in virtually every dimension of the Capital Market (number of securities, volumes and value issued and traded etc).

FACTORS THAT HINDERED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NIGERIAN CAPITAL MARKET

The development of the Nigerian capital market has not been too successful because of the following. There have not been a consistent macroeconomic policy framework involving fiscal monetary exchange rate and capital account policies.

Also transparency and information infrastructure such as proper auditing, accounting and credit information are generally low.

Furthermore, banking soundness with focus on prudential regulations and supervision are low.

In addition, there were restrictions in portfolio holding and interest rates though the restriction has now been removed.

EFFECT OF RECAPITALIZATION ON THE NIGERIAN CAPITAL MARKET DEVELOPMENT

Underdeveloped or poorly functioning capital markets typically are illiquid and expensive. It deters investors, investments is adversely affected if raising local capital is difficult and costly. Illiquidity and high transaction costs also hinder the capital raising efforts of corporations.

The recapitalization has clearly shown that the hitherto held view that the Nigerian capital market was not deep has been debunked by the success of the banks that went to the capital market to raise funds. For every business, the

International Bank and Guarantee Trust Bank succeeded in raising over N70 billion aggregate going to the capital market.

Bank securities to be available for purchase there by increasing the varieties of securities capital market.

succeeded in mobilizing funds that were virtually idle or from the informal sector to the capital investment.

publicity that is going on about the Bank recapitalization have made most people aware save and invest in the ownership of shares.

lowered the rate of capital outflow as avenues for investing the funds in the capital market capitalization abound.

Increased remittance of foreign currencies from abroad. These remittance are being used to banks.

Increased number of participant in the capital market. With special reference to banks there on the Nigerian stock exchange by December 2003. But as October 31 2005, 36 banks the exchange while some others are awaiting approval to consummate their mergers.

Wider distribution of equities (especially the banking equity) by discouraging the equities in a few but powerful hands.

DEVELOPED CAPITAL MARKET IN AN ECONOMY

Important benefits of having a well developed capital market in an economy.

At the economic policy level, the capital market will provide avenue for domestic funding of budgets central bank and thereby, reduce the need for direct and potentially damaging monetary policy, especially its deficits.

Steps to avoid a build up of foreign currency-denominated debt. It can also strengthen the implementation of monetary targets or inflation objectives and can enable the use of market policy instruments.

Market-oriented funding of government budget and deficits will reduce debt service to long-term through deep and liquid market for securities.

At macroeconomic levels, a well developed capital market can increase overall financial intermediation through greater competition and development services.

Capital market can help the financial/system from being a primarily bank-oriented to the capital market can complement bank financing.

With a well developed capital market commercial banks are forced to develop new credit more competitively.

Capital market entails the creation of an extensive information legal and institutional benefits for the entire financial system.

Benefits of having a well developed capital market in an economy include:

Resources are allocated into their most efficient and profitable use. That is it help to the use of capital by helping to increase the amount of domestic savings flowing into the economy.

Protection from fraud and deceit and hence instill the confidence needed for orderly growth and development.

Determination of appropriate prices for securities through its price determination role and investments necessary for economic growth and development.

Facilitation of transfer of securities by removing bottlenecks which may breed inefficiencies and lack of adequate liquidity without which funds will much less freely find their way into the capital market for economic and industrial development.

CONCLUSION

A developed capital market is an important facilitator of economic growth and development. With recent recapitalization savings have been mobilized more than ever before and channeled into the banking sector it is expected that they will have a positive effect on the economy. With the removal of impediment to the capital market development it will be able to perform its function especially mobilization of funds for productive investment.

The continued success on the development of the Nigerian capital market rests on both the operators at all have to make sure they obey all rules and regulations guiding their activities and the government should make sure that there is a consistent macroeconomic policy framework especially in relation to monetary, exchange rate and capital account policies.

Based on the success of the banks in raising money from the capital market which was greatly helped by their publicity and aggressive marketing it is seen that the depth of the capital market is a function of investment education and the awareness that publicity creates for opportunities in the stock market.

RECOMMENDATION

The following points are our recommendations.

First there is need to have over-the-counter Market (OTC) which will help to protect investors by providing a formal, orderly and transparent system for trading in the securities of unquoted public companies and facilitate compliance with the law which requires that securities of public companies can only be traded through SEC-registered brokers/dealers.

Secondly, there is the need to plug the gap in the secondary market system involving the absence of a formalized trading in the securities of unquoted public companies by having a form for it.

Thirdly, the Abuja stock and commodity exchange should be supported and encouraged to function properly.

Fourthly, the government should release the report and white paper on the Dennis Odife capital market reform.

Fifth, the government should ensure there is a consistent macroeconomic policy framework involving fiscal, monetary, exchange rate and capital account policies.

Sixthly, operators of the banking system should be made by the regulatory authorities in the market to adhere to prudential regulations and supervision.

Finally, the regulators should be well strengthened to enable them monitor the capital market and ensure the operators obey all rules and regulations.

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