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# Politics and Entrepreneurship in a Developing Economy

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Abstract: The success or failure of entrepreneurs in a country is highly determined by the ability of the government to formulate and implement policies that would create a good atmosphere for business activities to thrive. In most cases developing nations do not possess favorable policies and are plagued with numerous factors which deny them of these policies, these factors range from poor implementation to inconsistency in application and also corruption. An important distinction between developed and developing nations often lies in the wide disparity between policy pronouncements and policy implementation. However, signs of this disparity are found in the extent that policies are clear and measurable and that application is consistent. The study made use of primary data sourced from 100 respondents through the administration of questionnaire. The paper discusses the various factors which militate against the implementation of policies, which will in turn affect the success of entrepreneurial activities. It also seeks to answer questions which centers around the effects of economic variables on entrepreneurship as a factor of production. It was recommended among others that the implementation of policies should be swift and consistent and also leaders should embrace a foresighted approach in the formulation of policies.

*Keywords*: Entrepreneurial Activities, Economic Variables, Policy Pronouncements, Policies.

#### Introduction

The policies used in sustaining and developing an economy are formulated and implemented by government on different levels or arms, this is an indication that for an economy to be stable the government of the day needs to have a sound idea of policies that would guarantee a stable and developed economy. The activities of entrepreneurs are dependent on how viable the economy is, and the level of opportunities it creates. However, the individuals occupying administrative positions in government are either voted in or appointed, this is done directly and indirectly by the citizens of that country. Politics is the collection of legal activities engaged in by politicians in order to attain a public office position for the purpose of satisfying the basic needs of citizens of a particular country. When, there is a presidential election, one of the biggest issues is always the state of the economy. In Nigeria, the citizenry expects the new administration to pursue policies that would reduce unemployment, keep inflation under control and ensure adequate economic growth (Adegbuyi & Oludaru, 2013).

This in turn, determines the success of entrepreneurial activities in the country, its success reassures the government of the absence of economic issues such as inflation and unemployment and it's failure will welcome such issues. This means that there is a dependency relationship on government policies by entrepreneurial activities. The implementation of policies determined by the choice of programs that will be used and also how responsive the people are to such programs. The objective of the study is to determine the effect of political activities on entrepreneurship growth and development and to determine the extent to which economic policies has improved entrepreneurship growth in Nigeria. This study is focused on Politics and entrepreneurship in a developing economy considering and responses analyzing from respondents of both undergraduate final year students and postgraduate students of Covenant University, the study seeks to know if the activities of political actors influence the development of

entrepreneurship in Nigeria and its effect on the economy as a developing one. Covenant University is a Christian based university with Dr. David Olanivi Oyedepo as its chancellor. Covenant University was chosen to carry out this research because, it not only has a entrepreneurship strong theoretical called Entrepreneurship curriculum Developmental Studies (EDS), that is compulsory for all levels of students ranging from undergraduate students to postgraduate students, it also conforms to the policy of the government in ensuring that there is a center for entrepreneurship learning. This has provided a basis for other institutions to learn from thereby increasing awareness on its development and its effect on the economy. Therefore, the paper delves into the concept of entrepreneurship, government policies and developing economies. It also discusses the history, roles and challenges of government in the development of entrepreneurship in Nigeria. The effects of politics on entrepreneurship were discussed as well as its impact in a developing economy wavs of ensuring and also implementation of favorable policies.

For the purpose of this study, the following research hypotheses were generated as a guideline to this study.

### **Hypothesis 1**

 $H_0$ : Positive political activities cannot increase growth of the economy

H<sub>1</sub>: Positive political activities can increase growth of the economy

## Hypothesis 2

H<sub>0</sub>: Favorable policies does not influence the development of entrepreneurship

H<sub>1:</sub> Favorable policies influences the development of entrepreneurship

#### **Literature Review**

The impact of political activities has a direct effect on the economy and this also has an effect on the activities of entrepreneurs in the nation and also the development of entrepreneurship. The nature of politics, economy and entrepreneurship, requires us to study and analyze the various concepts involved in this study.

### **Concept of Entrepreneurship**

Entrepreneurship has evolved into a global concept and has been termed as an economic driver. Earlier definitions of entrepreneurship centered on its role as go-between and by the middle ages, it was seen in terms of large scale projects. In the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, the concept of entrepreneurship gained its differentiation from the capitalist and the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century viewed this concept from an economic perspective (Yahaya Nuhu. & Entrepreneurship is the conscious effort by an individual to respond to diverse opportunities arising from his or her environment. The entrepreneurial activities engaged in by an entrepreneur, requires innovation, proactive steps, calculated risk taking, creativity and management. The various challenges that may arise for an entrepreneur can be internal or external. Internal form of challenges may include; legal and political factors, socio-cultural factors and economic factors. Political and economic factors and the variables surrounding it, serve as one of the major points for discussion for this paper. The external factors include competition from foreign firms and also policies of international bodies. The concept of entrepreneurship is perceived as a creative and innovative response in economic and social ventures through willingness and ability

of an individual to explore investment opportunities and being able to run it successfully. through making profitable or suffering loss of invested capital. It involves combining resources increase value and introducing innovation change and into production process and creating wealth and employment opportunities. In order understand and engage entrepreneurial activities. individuals continuous must engage in environmental scanning, because this is the basic step of entrepreneurship. However the business environment is of a dynamic nature and this compels the 21st century entrepreneur to assume a pro-active nature.

### **Concept of Government policies**

The beginning of a new administration starts with a public declaration of its political agenda, and when it is elected into office, it sets to achieve this by formulation of policies, and these policies are implemented through selected programs. Policy is a course of action or a program of actions, which is selected from among several options by certain actors in response to certain problems (Ikelegbe, 2006). Policy formulation, is the development of relevant policy in relation to public problem proposition, and the consideration and enactment of the policy (Ikelegbe,1996). Public policy making and implementation is a very critical aspect of governance that demands the efforts of both government and non-governmental institutes, in order to make sure that the interest of stakeholders in the country is protected. Public policy itself refers to authorized means devised government in order to achieve its stated goals and objectives. This can take the form of rendering social services to the community by a governmental agency or ministerial department. Public policy is thus a mechanism used in translating goals/objectives in to practical actions that can affect positively the lives of people and in the long run create a favorable economy for entrepreneurship activities to thrive. Policy implementations are those activities that are directed towards putting programs to the necessary personnel, logistic support and funds, which will enhance the actualization of the policy objectives (Okereke, 1998)

### **Concept of Developing Economy**

developing economy or under developed country is a nation with an underdeveloped industrial base, and a low human development index (HDI) relative to other countries. On the other hand, since the late 1990s developing countries tender to demonstrate higher growth rates than the developed ones. There is no universal, agreed upon criterion for what makes a country developing versus developed and which countries fit these two categories.(IGI global, 2016). In 2015, Nigeria was listed as a developing country by the international union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) at its 26<sup>th</sup> general assembly. This position occupied by Nigeria serves as an indication that the activities of the government as it concerns policy formulation has not been given the complete elements that would enable her to graduate to a developed country.

The state of an economy is one of the yardsticks used in appraising the performance of the government of the day. Therefore most politicians or leaders try to address economic issues with a proactive approach. This mindset or culture is not imbibed by leaders of developing nations and Nigeria is not an

exception. An economy is sometimes influenced by its economic system and political system as well, and this goes a long way in determining the allocation of factors of production, choice of policies and programs, foreign policies and the management of the nation's resources. Most countries that are categorized as a developing nation are found to be practicing a mixed economy and are also plagued by a corrupt system, the presence of corruption in a system denies the citizens of whatever benefits a particular political system has to offer and this implication serves as a constraint to the growth of the Nigerian economy.

### History of Government contributions towards development of Entrepreneurship

The Nigerian government assumed its role in entrepreneurship development only after the Nigerian civil war (1967-70). Throughout the mid-1980s there has been increased commitment of government to entrepreneurship development it kicked off with the initiation of the structural adjustment economic program (SAP) IN 1986. In addition to this, was the establishment the national directorate employment (NDE), National open Apprenticeship Scheme (NOAS), Small and Medium Enterprise Development Association of Nigeria (SMEDAN), these are steps made by the Nigerian government to ensure a good foundation for entrepreneurship to thrive. The nation also witnessed the introduction of entrepreneurship studies the Nigerian educational system in the early 2000s. This was a mandatory course especially for students of higher institutions. for The center entrepreneurship development was saddled with the responsibility of teaching and gingering students of (especially institutions higher science, engineering and technological (SET)) to acquire entrepreneurial. innovative and management skills, was established. On a broader stage, the tariffs government increased imported goods, that could be made locally, in order to discourage importation and increase entrepreneurial ventures in targeted industries.

### Role of Government in Entrepreneurship Development

The role of Government in the development of entrepreneurship cannot be over emphasized, in Nigeria the government operates at a Federal, State, and Local level, and this makes expectations and duties to vary, but the three levels should develop a synergic effort towards fulfilling these roles. The roles of government in entrepreneurship development include;

- Formulation of favorable policies
- Monitoring of economic variables
- Creation of a healthy business environment
- Legal provisions
- Swift implementation of policies
- Policy evaluation and control
- Government support structure and systems
- Access to funding
- Access to business training and skills
- Access to business premises

# **Challenges of Government in Entrepreneurship Development**

The formulation of good policies has never been the problem of the Nigerian government, in this area it has witnessed the formulation of viable policies which could stir the economy to its peak, and create an atmosphere for businesses to thrive. The constraint to this step of development is as a result of various factors such as;

- Misallocation of funds
- Poor implementation of policies
- Inconsistency
- Inadequate feedback mechanism
- Corruption
- Lack of funds
- Mismanagement of funds
- Nepotism

# The Effect of Political Activities on Entrepreneurship

The political activities discussed in this context would be centered formulation of policies and the activities surrounding its processes, the Nigerian government has its political environment, political plagued by rivalry, poor vision and corruption. These activities affect implementation of policies and delays the processes involved, the business environment would be affected by this from the economic perspective, the distribution of factors of production, and its cost would either increase or decrease, this encourages or discourages entrepreneurial activities in the country. There is a need to analyze the concept aggregate demand because the aggregate demand in the economy is an indicator of the level of purchasing power by its citizens. Aggregate demand or domestic final demand (DFD) is the total demand for final goods and services in an economy at a given time. It specifies the amount of goods and services that will be purchased at all possible price levels. The government influence aggregate demand through the use of expansionary fiscal policy, which involves adjusting its budget during the year. It can do this by increasing its purchase of goods and services by increasing transfer payments to individuals and organizations, or by reducing taxes. If the aggregate demand is high, people would purchase more and entrepreneurs would witness success of their product or service and thereby encourage them to engage in more entrepreneurial activities.

# The Effects of Political activities in a Developing Economy

The political actors in a country are saddled with the responsibility of formulating policies on different level and in different arms, and the state of the economy should be a major point of consideration before the process of policy formulation begins. Most developing economies are import oriented and this makes them dumping grounds for exporters, who may maybe manufacturing inferior goods. policy of the Government has effects on the state of the economy as it finds itself in this category. The various effects of these policies include;

- Protection or neglect of indigenous firms
- Increase or decrease in importation
- Improved standard of living
- Increase multinational trade
- Adequate management of resources
- Review of trade policies
- Evolving into a developed economy
- Remaining stagnant as a developing economy

# Factors and ways involved in implementation of favorable Policies

The implementation of policies has been identified as the major problem of the Nigerian government and for various stakeholders in the country such as entrepreneurs, there would be no way they can benefit from a policy if it has not been implemented. Policies are implemented through programs, which contain procedures, but this is not the end, there should be a laid down feedback mechanism process. evaluate and monitor its effectiveness. The government should consider and recognize factors that aid in the formulation and implementation favorable policies. These factors include:

- Economic analysis
- Bench marking
- Observing due process
- Consideration of foreign policies and trade agreements
- Sensitization of citizens
- Identification of required resources
- Establishment of adequate feedback mechanism

#### Methodology

This study made use of primary data sourced from 100 respondents through the administration of questionnaire and Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to analyze responses and derive conclusions. Secondary sources were also consulted in getting information concerning the aforementioned topic. These secondary sources were mostly past research work, papers analysis of of scholars. textbooks, and journal articles.

### **Analysis of Data**

SEX

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	MALE	71	74.7	74.7	74.7
Valid	FEMALE	24	25.3	25.3	100.0
	Total	95	Percent	100.0	

The above table shows that 74.7% of the respondents were male and 25.3% were female. This is to show that most of the respondents were male.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	18-24	44	46.3	46.3	46.3
	25-30	41	43.2	43.2	89.5
	31-40	7	7.4	7.4	96.8
Valid	41-50	2	2.1	2.1	98.9
Vand	51 and above	1	1.1	1.1	100.0
	Total	95	100.0	100.0	
	Total	95	100.0	100.0	

The above table shows that 46.3 % of the correspondents are between the ages of 18-24, and the ages of 25-30 take the percentage of 43.2%, 31-40 have 7.4%,41-50 have 2.1% and 51 and above constitute 1.1%. This is to say that 18-24 has the largest percentage and 51 to above have the least percentage.

LEVEL

		Frequency	Percent	Valid	Cumulative
				Percent	Percent
	400/500Level	6	6.3	6.3	6.3
Valid	PGD/M.Sc./MBA/M.Eng/M .A2	77	81.1	81.1	87.4
	Ph.D.	12	12.6	12.6	100.0
	Total	95	100.0	100.0	

The table above shows the educational level of correspondents, 400/500level has 6.3% PGD/M.Sc/MBA/M.Eng/M.A constitute 81.1%, Ph.D. has a total of 12.6%. This is to show that most of the respondents fall under the PGD, M.Sc., MBA, M.Eng and M.A.

The Nigerian government adopt excellent policies that could change the future of their Citizens

		Frequency	Percent	Valid	Cumulative Percent
				Percent	Percent
	STRONGLY AGREED	28	29.5	29.5	29.5
	AGREE	27	28.4	28.4	57.9
Valid	UNDECIDED	9	9.5	9.5	67.4
, 3,223	DISAGREE	20	21.1	21.1	88.4
	STRONGLY DISAGREE	11	11.6	11.6	100.0
	Total	95	100.0	100.0	

The table above shows 29.5% strongly agree that the Nigerian government adopt excellent policies that could change the future of their citizens, 28.4% agree, 28.4% disagree, 9.5% are undecided, and 11.6% strongly disagree.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid	Cumulative
				Percent	Percent
	STRONGLY AGREED	10	10.5	10.5	10.5
	AGREE	20	21.1	21.1	31.6
Valid	UNDECIDED	17	17.9	17.9	49.5
vanu	DISAGREE	31	32.6	32.6	82.1
	STRONGLY DISAGREE	17	17.9	17.9	100.0
	Total	95	100.0	100.0	

#### Economic issues in Nigeria are approached with a sense of urgency

The table above shows the relative opinions of the respondents in response to the questions, 10.5% strongly agree that economic issues in Nigeria are approached with a sense of urgency, 21.1%, agree, 17.9% are undecided, 32.6 disagree and 17.9 strongly disagree.

Political activities have no effect on the economy

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulativ e Percent
	STRONGLY AGREED	11	11.6	11.6	11.6
	AGREE	17	17.9	17.9	29.5
37.1:4	UNDECIDED	19	20.0	20.0	49.5
Valid	DISAGREE	20	21.1	21.1	70.5
	STRONGLY DISAGREE	28	29.5	29.5	100.0
	Total	95	100.0	100.0	

The table above shows that 11.6% strongly agree that political activities have no effect on the economy, 17.9% agree, 20.0% are undecided, 21.1% disagree and 29.5% strongly disagree.

Politicians make effort to fulfill their agendas

		Frequency	Percent	Valid	Cumulative
				Percent	Percent
	STRONGLY AGREED	9	9.5	9.5	9.5
	AGREE	23	24.2	24.2	33.7
Valid	UNDECIDED	18	18.9	18.9	52.6
vallu	DISAGREE	28	29.5	29.5	82.1
	STRONGLY DISAGREE	17	17.9	17.9	100.0
	Total	95	100.0	100.0	

The table above shows that 9.5% strongly disagree that politicians make effort to fulfill their agendas, 24.2% disagree, 18.9% are undecided, 29.5% disagree and 17.9% strongly disagree.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	STRONGLY AGREED	12	12.6	12.6	12.6
	AGREE	16	16.8	16.8	29.5
Valid	UNDECIDED	14	14.7	14.7	44.2
vana	DISAGREE	20	21.1	21.1	65.3
	STRONGLY DISAGREE	33	34.7	34.7	100.0
	Total	95	100.0	100.0	

#### Economic policies does not affect the state of the economy

The table above shows that 12.6% strongly agrees that economic policies do not affect the state of the economy, 16.8% agree, 14.7% are undecided, 21.1% disagree, 34.7% strongly disagree.

# Political crises does not encourage the innovation of youths in a developing economy

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulativ e Percent
	STRONGLY AGREED	39	41.1	41.1	41.1
	AGREE	36	37.9	37.9	78.9
Valid	UNDECIDED	9	9.5	9.5	88.4
, and	DISAGREE	8	8.4	8.4	96.8
	STRONGLY DISAGREE	3	3.2	3.2	100.0
	Total	95	100.0	100.0	

The table above shows that 41.1% strongly agree that political crises do not encourage the innovation of youths in a developing economy, 37.9% agree, 9.5% are undecided, 8.4% disagree, 3.2% strongly disagree.

# Government regulations influence the growth of entrepreneurship in a developing economy

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulativ e Percent
	STRONGLY AGREED	32	33.7	33.7	33.7
	AGREE	51	53.7	53.7	87.4
Valid	UNDECIDED	9	9.5	9.5	96.8
vand	DISAGREE	2	2.1	2.1	98.9
	STRONGLY DISAGREE	1	1.1	1.1	100.0
	Total	95	100.0	100.0	

The table above shows that 33.7% strongly agree that government regulations influence the growth of entrepreneurship in a developing economy, 53.7% agree, 9.5% are undecided, 2.1% disagree, 1.1% strongly disagree.

The Nigerian infrastructure limits entrepreneurial effectiveness and is a barrier to entrepreneurship success

		Frequency	Percent	Valid	Cumulative
				Percent	Percent
	STRONGLY AGREED	29	30.5	30.5	30.5
	AGREE	38	40.0	40.0	70.5
Valid	UNDECIDED	15	15.8	15.8	86.3
vand	DISAGREE	10	10.5	10.5	96.8
	STRONGLY DISAGREE	3	3.2	3.2	100.0
	Total	95	100.0	100.0	

The table above shows that 30.5% strongly agrees that the Nigerian infrastructure limits entrepreneurial effectiveness and is a barrier to entrepreneurship success, 40.0% agree, 15.8% are undecided, 10.5% disagree, 3.2% strongly disagree.

Favorable Economic policies aid entrepreneurs in starting up their business

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	STRONGLY AGREED	39	41.1	41.1	41.1
	AGREE	33	34.7	34.7	75.8
	UNDECIDED	18	18.9	18.9	94.7
	DISAGREE	3	3.2	3.2	97.9
	STRONGLY DISAGREE	2	2.1	2.1	100.0
	Total	95	100.0	100.0	

The table above shows that 41.1% strongly agree that favorable economic policies aid entrepreneurs in starting up their business, 34.7% agree, 18.9% is undecided, 3.2% disagree, 2.1% strongly disagree.

Entrepreneurship development has been given adequate attention by policy makers

		Frequency	Percent	Valid	Cumulative
				Percent	Percent
Valid	STRONGLY AGREED	13	13.7	13.7	13.7
	AGREE	29	30.5	30.5	44.2
	UNDECIDED	19	20.0	20.0	64.2
	DISAGREE	24	25.3	25.3	89.5
	STRONGLY DISAGREE	10	10.5	10.5	100.0
	Total	95	100.0	100.0	

The table above shows that 13.7% strongly agree that entrepreneurship development has been given adequate attention by policy makers, 30.5% agree, 20.0% are undecided, 25.% disagree, 10.5% strongly disagree.

# Test of Hypothesis 1: Statement of Hypothesis

H<sub>0</sub>: Positive political activities cannot increase growth of the economy

H<sub>1</sub>: Positive political activities can increase growth of the economy

The test statistics to be used in this hypothesis is the regression analysis. The significance level below 0.05 implies a statistical confidence of above 95%. Therefore, we reject the null hypothesis once the P-value is  $\leq 0.05$  and accept the alternative hypothesis.

#### **Model Summary**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R	Std. Error of	
			Square	the Estimate	
1	$.077^{a}$	.006	005	1.407	

a. Predictors: (Constant), Political activities have no effect on the economy

#### **ANOVA**

Mod	del	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
	Regression	1.093	1	1.093	.552	$.460^{\rm b}$
1	Residual	184.213	93	1.981		
	Total	185.305	94			

- a. Dependent Variable: The Nigerian government adopt excellent policies that could change the future of their citizens
- b. Predictors: (Constant), Political activities have no effect on the economy

Regression analysis used in evaluating hypothesis 1 shows how much of the dependent variable variance is explained by the model. The results from the table shows that the extent to which the variance in economic growth is being explained by positive political activities is 0.6% i.e. (R square = 0.006). The Anova table reveals the assessment of the statistical significance of the result. The alternative hypothesis is rejected because the P-value is greater than 0.05. The model in this table reaches statistical significance (sig = 0.460), in which the P-value is equal to .460, and greater than 0.05. Therefore, we reject the alternative hypothesis.

This implies that "Positive political activities cannot increase growth of the economy". This therefore, is the null hypothesis.

# Test of Hypothesis 2: Statement of Hypothesis

H<sub>0</sub>: Favorable policies does not influence the development of entrepreneurship

H<sub>1:</sub> Favorable policies influences the development of entrepreneurship

The test statistics to be used in this hypothesis is the regression analysis. The significance level below 0.05 implies a statistical confidence of above 95%. Therefore, we reject the null

hypothesis once the P-value is  $\leq 0.05$ 

and accept the alternative hypothesis.

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R	Std. Error of the	
			Square	Estimate	
1	.369 <sup>a</sup>	.136	.127	.717	

a. Predictors: (Constant), Favorable Economic policies aid entrepreneurs in starting up their business

#### **ANOVA**<sup>a</sup>

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
	Regression	7.539	1	7.539	14.678	$.000^{b}$
1	Residual	47.766	93	.514		
	Total	55.305	94			

Dependent Variable: Government regulations influence the growth of entrepreneurship in a developing economy

b. Predictors: (Constant), Favorable Economic policies aid entrepreneurs in starting up their business

The results from the table variance are explained by the model. Regression analysis used in evaluating hypothesis 2 shows how much of the dependent variable shows that the extent which the variance development of entrepreneurship being explained by the influence of favorable policies is 13.6% i.e. (R square = 0.136). The Anova table reveals the assessment of the statistical significance of the result. The null hypothesis is rejected because the P-value is less than 0.05. The model in this table reaches statistical significance (sig = 0.000), in which the P-value is equal to .000, and less than 0.05. Therefore, we reject the null hypothesis. This implies "Favorable policies influence development of entrepreneurship". This therefore, is the alternative hypothesis.

### **Discussion of Findings**

From the above analysis, it can be said that there was a 100% response to the questionnaire. The findings show that policies influence favorable the development of entrepreneurship and people are of the opinion that positive political activities cannot increase the growth of the economy. This shows that citizens actually believe the policies formulated is a stronger than determinant of economic growth than political behaviors and activities.

#### **Recommendation and Conclusion**

The policies formulated by political actors, affect the economic variables operating in the state and this in turn, affects the aggregate demand of people in the country, and the aggregate demand either encourages discourages entrepreneurial activities and efforts. Political actors in developing economies especially Nigeria should adopt a proactive approach in dealing with economic issues and formulate policies with a foresighted approach and also ensure swift implementation of these policies and establish an effective feedback mechanism. The formulation of favorable economic policies is the cradle of entrepreneurship in an economy especially that of a developing economy, and the growth of entrepreneurship and its collective activities, assures the government of an economic boost on the long-run.

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