

## **AN EXAMINATION OF THE CHALLENGES OF POWER SUPPLY IN NIGERIA IN POST-PRIVATIZATION ERA, 2013—2016**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This paper examines the challenges facing power (electricity) supply in Nigeria since the privatization of the assets of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) in 2013. This is in view of the importance of regular power supply in national economic growth and social progress. In the course of this research, the writer established the fact that there were certain challenges that militate against regular power supply in the country. These include lack of effective implementation of some vital policies and projects concerning the energy sector; the nefarious acts of oil thieves and pipeline and cable vandals. There was also the challenge of lack of effective gas transmission infrastructure; the problem of gas flaring and inadequate gas supply to thermal power plants. Besides, there was also the challenge of obsolete power equipment and lack of regular maintenance of existing power plants and other electricity installations. Moreover, the power sector in post-privatization era is faced with the challenge of inadequate funding by the core investors as a result of paucity of fund. Also, there has been the controversy between the Distribution Companies (DISCOs) and electricity consumers over the appropriate billing system. Consequent upon these challenges about 75 percent of Nigerians were said to have no access to regular power supply in 2015. In like manner, about 41 per cent of businesses in Nigeria were said to be generating their own electricity, while 56 per cent had no access to electricity despite marginal improvement in power supply which stood at 4, 884 megawatts (MW) in November 2015 and 5,074.7MW in February 2016. The situation creates fears that Nigeria may not meet its target of 20,000MW generation capacity by 2020. However, the federal government should continue to provide necessary support and effective regulations to the power sector to ensure appreciable improvement in power supply for rapid and sustainable national development.