The Church and Entrepreneurship: Hope for the Youth in Nigeria

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Abstract
The informal sector is termed to be vibrant because it accounts for one-third of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and creates 90% of new jobs globally. In Nigeria, the situation is not different, yet the government has failed to effectively harness the potentials of entrepreneurs (those who work and own businesses in this sector) and link them to the real sector. This continues to undermine the potential for economic growth and relegate the youth who often seek refuge in this sector. The main thrust of this paper, therefore, is to challenge the Church as a model and vital social institution to use its gifts, resources and experiences to help young people become useful citizens. The recommendations that were made include: (a) that the church should facilitate the on-going reforms in the financial sector with the aim of reducing the obstacles in obtaining soft loans. The church should influence government policy to properly stream-line an efficient process of registering a business or enterprise with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC).

Introduction
Although the current economic reforms in Nigeria were supposed to open up the national economy to the global economy, the reality on ground rather is the down-sizing of the civil service and more need to cut down on government expenditure (Onoge, 2005). This meant that social institutions, amongst them, schools deteriorated even as the intake and turn-out from such schools continued to rise annually. Consequently, the Nigerian situation is such that the institutions of learning turn out a workforce that is not equipped with the right skills employers require (McGrath and King, 1995). In addition, there is a recorded massive rural-urban drift, especially amongst the youth, who feel that they can make it better, economically in the metropolitan areas of the country (Echibiri, 2005). In consequence, the unemployed simply have to fend for themselves and grapple with this new phenomenon to create jobs independently - self-employment as it is called and this has been the trend for over two decades. It is how the youth have fared in pursuit of economic power/empowerment (entrepreneurship) and