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ABSTRACT

The main objective of the study is to test association between investment climate and attitude towards tax by SMEs in Plateau State. The study used cross-sectional survey design. Using Krejcie and Morgan (1970) sample size determination table, the sample size for the current study is 265 for a population of 875. The data for the study were obtained through administration of questionnaire and was analyzed using multiple regressions. The results indicate that shortage of electric supply, insecurity, perceived corruption, access to finance and taxpayers' attitude towards tax are significantly and positively associated. However, multiple taxation was found to be insignificant in explaining SMEs negative attitude towards tax. It was recommended that government should put measures in place to address shortage of electric supply, insecurity, inadequate access to finance and corruption to improve internally generated revenue through tax

Keywords: *attitude towards tax, insecurity, investment climate, access to finance,*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

While the contributions of SMEs to national development are generally acknowledged, it is worrisome that most of the entities have low tax compliance rate especially in Nigeria. In 2017, Nigeria's former finance minister, Mrs Kemi Adeosun, admitted that there was low-level tax compliance in the country especially among SMEs (Herbert, Nwarogu&Nwabueze, 2018). The tax compliance rate in Nigeria is put at 6% lower than the African average of 9% according to World Bank (2016). This scenario is replicated in 2018 where Nigeria is ranked 145 position out of 190 countries lower than most African countries like Namibia, Kenya, Zambia, South Africa, Uganda and Tanzania (World Bank, 2018). If this scenario is not addressed, the government may not be able to tap fully the revenue from these entities. As such, the government may not be able to meet all its financial obligations to the citizens.

The government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in its bid to encourage tax payment in the past 3 years has amended the nation's tax policy, introduced digitalization and even launched programmes like VAIDS (Voluntary Asset and Income Declaration Scheme). The scheme is meant to provide incentive defaulting businesses and individuals to regularize their tax status without penalties within a given period. At the state level, some states have introduced similar measures to address the issue of low tax compliance especially among the SMEs. Such steps can be seen in the case of

Plateau State where the government offer a 50% discount for businesses and individuals who voluntarily submit there tax return to the Plateau State Board of Internal Revenue Service between July and December 2016. These efforts by the government have not yielded the desired results, as tax compliance rate of the entities is still adjudged as low.

Empirically, scholars have attribute poor attitudes towards tax to such factors as lack of proper enlightenment, level of education, gender, tax category, age and religion (Atawodi&Ojeka, 2012, Helhel& Ahmed, 2014, Inasius, 2018). Though these studies have provided understanding of the factors associated with attitude towards tax, they focus on cognitive attributes of the taxpayer. As such they do not provide sufficient understanding from the perspective of environmental factors such as investment climate factors. Investment climate is a set of economic, social and financial conditions in a country that affect individuals, businesses and institutions (World bank, 2016). The World Bank identified poverty, crime, infrastructure, workforce, national security, political instability, regime uncertainty, taxes, rule of law; property rights government regulations, transparency and accountability as investment climate factors.

The focus of the current study is on Plateau State for the following reason. The state has witnessed a lot of ethno-religious crises since 2001. This has affected businesses negatively especially the SMEs

in the state. Under this condition, the government is experiencing difficulty providing infrastructures and securing lives and properties. This has in turn affected individual tax taxpayer's attitude towards paying tax. Additionally the state is rated as one of the poorest states in the country with 51.6% poverty rate (www.naijahelm.co./2017). Therefore, there is the need to promote revenue generation in the state.

Prior studies have not documented sufficient evidence of the association between investment climate and tax compliance of SMEs especially in Nigeria even though it is acknowledged that small businesses operate under a harsh investment climate such as infrastructural deficit, perceived corruption, insecurity, and lack of access to finance, multiple taxes and insecurity. Unfortunately, there is dearth of empirical literature poor attitude towards tax by businesses especially the small businesses. Such studies we believe will guide policy decision aimed at changing taxpayer attitude towards tax positively, thereby improving government revenue. This study is set to fill this knowledge gap by empirically examine the relationship between investment climate and attitude towards tax by SMEs in Plateau State. The purpose of this study therefore is to examine the association between inadequate power supply, multiple taxation, access to finance, and insecurity, perceived corruption, and SMEs attitude towards tax in Plateau State Nigeria.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 The concept of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency (SMEDAN) defines SMEs as entities that employ between 5 to 200 employees with assets value excluding land of less than five million and not above 500 million. The agency distinguished between micro, small and medium size entities. Accordingly, Micro-entities are those employing less than 10 employees with asset value of less than 5 million naira. Small enterprises are those employing between 10 to 49 employees with assert size of 5 million naira but less than 50 million while the medium enterprises are those employing between 50 to 199 employees with assets value of up to 50 million but less than 500 million. In this study the definition of SMEs by SMEDAN was adapted to guide the selection of considered to be SMEs. As such any entity with employees ranging between 10 to 200 with assets value of less than five million to maximum of 100 million naira are considered to be SMEs.

2.2 The concept of investment climate

Investment climate is a concept that has received high level of attention by international agencies, government and scholars alike as an important factor affecting businesses the world over. The main challenge is that there appears to be a little consensus as to what investment climate is. According, the definition of the concept varies across scholars and institutions such as the World Bank. For example, Dollar, Hallward-Driemeier, & Mengistae (2005) defined investment

climate as the institutional, policy, and regulatory environment in which firms operate. This definition suggests that investment climate is an external factor affecting businesses. According to the World Bank (2016) Investment climate describes the economic, social and financial conditions in a country that affect individuals, businesses and institutions. Investment climate factors include: poverty, crime, infrastructure, workforce, national security, political instability, regime uncertainty, taxes, rule of law, property rights government regulations, transparency and accountability.

This definition appears to be more comprehensive and provides a base for measuring the investment climate construct at the national and internal level. For example, it provides a base for assessing the differences in investment climate among countries. In this regards, scholars have been able to examine how strength of government regulation, poverty level, tax laws, transparency, corruption, and accountability explain differences in Foreign Direct Investment among countries (Quazi & Tandon, 2011). It can then be said that investment climate is location specific. Accordingly, we define investment climate as a set of location specific factors shaping the opportunities and incentives for firms to invest productively, create jobs and expand. The business environment can either promote or discourage private sector investment in projects. Today, organisations are seeking for ways to improving their performance to encourage high productivity and achieving of goals.

In this study, investment climate is conceptualized in terms of location specific factors such as insecurity, multiple taxation, access to finance, inadequate electric supply, and corruption in line with the World Bank view. This is because the World Bank view conceptualize the concept at firm level, which is the focus of this study, rather than at country level.

The concept of attitude towards tax

According to Ajzen's (1991) Theory of Planned Behavior, attitude relates to one's own personal views about a behavior. Attitude may also be defined as positive or negative views of an "attitude object"; i.e. a person, behavior or event. In relation to taxation, Nkwe (2013) defined taxpayers' attitudes as positive or negative views of tax compliance behavior. The outcome of positive views is tax compliance and negative views are tax non-compliance. In this study we conceptualized attitude towards tax in terms of incentives provided or lack of it by the government that affect the tax payers attitude either positively or negatively.

2.3 EMPIRICAL REVIEW

In the literature scholars have examined the relationship between various investment climate factors and other organizational phenomena like firm performance and foreign direct investments. For example, Dollar, Hallward-Driemeyer and Mengistae (2003) looked at the relationship between investment climate and firm performance in Bangladesh. They found that investment climate and firm level performance are highly related. Similarly, Kinda, Plane and

Varoudakis (2011) look at the relationship between investment climate and productivity of manufacturing firms in Middle East and North Africa. They documented that infrastructure, access to finance matter for firms' productive performance. In another study by Driemerier, Wallsten and Xu (2003) on investment climate and firm performance in India, the authors found evidence suggesting that, the ease of entry and exit, regulatory and administrative barriers to firm operation and availability of physical and technological infrastructure affect business performance.

Many studies focused on the constraints facing only foreign investors as such, they are more concern with various aggregate indicators of a country's institutional and policy environment, such as the rule of law, corruption, and openness to trade, legal origins, and financial sector depth. Such approach provides limited insights at firms' specific level.

Ma (2017) examined taxpayers' attitudes toward tax compliance in developed and developing countries. Using correlational analysis, it was documented that, age, gender and direct democracy have positive correlation with attitude towards tax in developed countries; their findings also suggest that these determinants have no significant effects on tax compliance attitudes in developing countries. It was also found that, tax knowledge only influence tax compliance attitudes in developing countries but not in developed countries. Other determinants of attitude

towards tax compliance such as income level were indicated to have produced very mixed results and remain uncertain in both developed and developing countries. National pride and religiosity were found to have a positive correlation with positive attitudes toward tax compliance in developed countries.

Wilks and Luis (2014) examined the influence of perceived fairness and corruption plus sanctions used by authorities to enforce tax compliance attitudes. Using a sample of 330 Portuguese economics and management, their findings suggest that trust in authorities and their capacity to deter and punish tax evaders are interrelated and that both are important in securing tax compliance.

In the Nigerian context scholars have examined the association between some investment climate variables and tax compliance. One of the leading articles in this regard is the one by Oboh, Yeye and Isa (2013) who examined the relationship between multiple taxes and taxpayers' non-compliance attitude in Nigeria. As such there is dearth of literature particularly in the Nigerian context examining a multiple set of investment climate variables though businesses in this part of the world are faced with adverse business environment. This study is an attempt to provide empirical evidence of the relationship between investment climate variables in and firms' attitude towards tax in Nigeria a developing country.

2.4 Theoretical review and hypotheses development

The anchor theory for this study is the benefit received principle. Theoretically, benefit received principle of taxation suggests that the burden of tax on an economic entity should be directly proportional to amount of benefits it receives from the use of public goods or services provided by government Musgrav (1959). In other words, consumers and businesses should pay to the government, the value of the public goods and services they have benefited from as if they were buying those goods and services. Such benefits include, provision of an enabling investment climate. This suggests that when taxpayers perceive the tax burden to be equitable, they are will be willing to pay more tax to the government.

The complementary theory used to understand and measure attitude towards tax is the theory of planned Behaviour by Ajzen (1991). The theory of planned behavior (TPB) is a generalized theory of human behavior in the social psychology literature that can be used to study a wide range of individual behaviors. It presumes that individual behavior represents conscious reasoned choice, and is shaped by cognitive thinking and social pressures such as environmental factors. The theory postulates that behaviors are based on one's intention regarding that behavior, which in turn is a function of the person's attitude toward the behavior, subjective norm regarding that behavior, and perception of control over that behavior. Such behaviour can be the persons behaviour towards tax. Based on earlier findings from empirical

studies and benefit-received principle, we developed the following hypothesis for this study:

1. *Ho: there is no significant relationship between shortage of electric power supply and attitude towards tax in Plateau State*

2. *Ho: there is no positive association between multiple-taxation and attitude towards tax in Plateau State.*

3. *Ho: There is no positive association between perception of corruption and attitude towards tax in Plateau State.*

4. *Ho: there is no significant relationship between level of insecurity and attitude towards tax in Plateau State.*

5. *Ho: There is no significant relationship between access to finance and attitude towards tax in Plateau State*

Note

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design, population and sample size and strategy

This study employed cross-sectional survey design that is cross-sectional in nature to examine the relationship between the predictor variables and SMEs attitude towards tax. According to Kumar (2014) the survey design is used in a research where the researcher does not have control over the study elements. This design is considered suitable for the current study because the research does not have control over the SMEs. Additionally, the nature of

the variables and sample used for the study provides another motivation for using survey design rather than experimental designs.

The use of cross-section survey design is to enable the research collect the data for both the dependent and the independent variables at the same point in time as suggested by Bhattachejer (2012). This design enabled us to sample the opinion of SME owners and managers.

The population of this study comprises of all SMEs in Jos the Plateau state capital. According to Plateau State Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency, the total number of SMEs in Plateau State stands at 1364 out of which 875 are within the scope of the current study. Using Krejcie and Morgan (1970 sample size determination table, the sample size for the current study is 265 for a population of 875. We used stratified random sample to select firms for the purpose of the study. According to Battachejer (2012), stratified random sampling is used where the population of study is considered to be heterogeneous in nature. In this study, the population is considered heterogeneous because it is made up firms in different industries. Firms across different sectors such as tailoring, hotels and motels, agriculture, carpentry, trading, hair dressing, barbing and welding were considered for the study.

3.2 Measurement of variables

The variables in this study are attitude towards tax, and investment climate.

Attitude towards tax

We conceptualized attitude towards tax as the extent to which taxpayers have negative or positive feelings towards paying tax. To measure the concept of attitude towards tax works of Kirchler and Wahl (2010) were adopted and modified to suit the context of the study. Sample some items in the scales included: I believe that government use the tax we paid judiciously, tax collectors are doing something that isn't right, I think the tax payers receive benefits from the tax they pay. All questions were anchored on a five point Likert scale with "1" = strongly disagree and "5" = strongly agree.

Investment climate variables

Shortage of Electric supply

Electric power supply was conceptualized in terms of shortage of electric power supply to SMEs. Respondents were asked to rate the extent to which issues such as high rate of power, frequency of supply, low voltage, over-billing post obstacles to their productivity on a five point scale ranging from 1, strongly not agree to 5 strongly agree. Some of the items in the scale include: the electric tariff is so high and cause challenge to my business; power failure is an obstacle to productivity in this business; over-billing is a serious challenge to my business. The scales were tested for reliability ($\alpha = 0.891$) and validity (total variance explained by five convergent factors = 78.3%).

Level of Insecurity

Insecurity was operationalized to measure the degree to which various security scenarios post a serious challenge to doing

business. The food security scales developed by Pérez-Escamilla (2012) were adopted and modified to suite this study. Items in the questionnaire include, Jos crisis, police harassment, activity of vandals and thread from community pressure groups. "I believe that any citizen should have enough to security to him or herself. I have some customers who say have relocated from Jos citing security as the main reason: ... I believe that security is all that, a right to have those things..." "The worse situation is not having a business but security of such business." Many people have no security. These were indicated on a five point Likert scale from 1 No challenge to 5 very high challenge. The scales were found to have high reliability ($\alpha = 0.851$) and validity (total variance explained by four convergent factors = 72.5%).

Multiple taxes

This variable was conceptualized in terms of multiplicity of taxes paid by the entities to the internal revenue service. Items in the scale include, VAT, income tax, withholding tax, tenement rent, agric. tax, parking space charges, vehicle licensing and property tax. Respondents were asked to indicate the level to which these tax items are applicable to their business. Response were indicated on a five point Likert scale of 1=not applicable at all to 5=very applicable. The scales for multiple taxation were tested for reliability ($\alpha = 0.74.9$) and validity (total variance explained by six convergent factors = 83.5%).

Access to finance

To measure this variable, questionnaire items developed by Claessens (2006) was adopted and modified to soot the current study. Items in the questionnaire include, I have easy access to bank loan, we get financial assistance when there is need for expansion, we are able to meet the collateral requirements of our bankers; the interest charged on the money we borrowed can be described as faire. I have access to money deposited in an account with microfinance institutions. These were indicated on a five point Likert scale from 1 strongly disagree to 5 strongly agree. The scales were tested for reliability and found to be reliable ($\alpha = 0.891$) and validity (total variance explained by four convergent factors = 53.5%).

Perceived corruption

To measure perceived corruption, the study adopted measures employed by prior studies. Specifically, the study adopted and modified scales used by Helhel (2014). Items in the questions include such questions as: tax revenue are not spent in the public interest; the revenue official sometimes ask bribe to reduce our tax liability; I am unwilling to pay tax because the tax officials don't pay tax to government; it is only the poor that are being forced to pay tax in this part of the country. All questions were indicated on a five point Likert scale of 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree; 3=neutral; 4=agree and 5=strongly agree. The scales for perceived corruption were tested for reliability ($\alpha = 0.789$) and validity (total variance explained by five convergent factors = 86.5%).

3.3 Method of data analysis

This study adopted the use of multiple regressions to test the association between the independent variables and the dependent variable. In this study, the dependent variable is performance while the independent variables are infrastructural deficit, multiple taxation and level of insecurity.

Model specification.

The regression model specified for the study is in the form

$$\text{Taxattitude} = a + \beta_1 \text{Ideficit} + \beta_2 \text{Multax} + \beta_3 \text{Insecure} + \beta_4 \text{Accfin} + \beta_5 \text{CorruptionP} + U$$

Where,

taxattitude = attitude towards tax

Ideficit = Infrastructural deficit (measures as shortage of electric supply)

Multax = Multiple taxation (multiple taxes)

Insecure = level of insecurity

Accfin = access to finance

CorruptionP = perceived corruption

$B_{1,2,3,4,5}$ are regression coefficients

a = constant

3.4 Ethical Issues

In a survey research, it is necessary to take into consideration ethical issues. In undertaking this study, general ethical guidelines of informed consent, right to privacy and protection from harm (physical, emotional or any other kind was taken note of). In addition to the study, respondents were granted the right to express and voice their views freely in answering the items in the questionnaire.

The introduction letter whose emphasis was on confidentiality of participants' rights especially on issues regarding tax perception, and corruption were taken into consideration

4.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Sampling characteristics

In this study, it was essential to understand the characteristics of those who filled the respondents. In terms of number of employees, the results shows that majority (36.98) of the firms are small size entities with employees ranging between 10 and 49. Medium size firms form 33.20% of the firms surveyed with number of employees ranging between 50 and 199. Micro-enterprises form 29% of all the firms surveyed with employees number less than 10. In terms of industrial categorization, the result shows that the merchandising (trading) businesses form the majority (47.16%) of the firms surveyed with transport section forming the least (6.04%).

It was also essential to consider the cognitive attributes of those that filled the questionnaire. Looking at educational qualification, the descriptive statistics indicate that majority (38.49%) of those who filled the questionnaire have either a diploma or NCE certificate. Those with masters' degree form the least (8.30%). Gender distribution show that majority of those that filled the questionnaire are males (68.68%) while females form 31.32%. table 1 presents the results.

Table 1: Demographic statistics

		Frequency	Percentage %	Cumulative
Number of employees	<10	79	29.82	18.86
	10-49	98	36.98	55.84
	50-199	88	33.20	89.04
	Total	265	100	
Gender	Male	182	68.68	53.3
	Female	83	31.32	100
	Total	265	100	
Industrial category	Manufacturing	39	14.71	14.71
	Merchandising	125	47.16	61.87
	Agriculture	25	9.45	71.32
	Transport	16	6.04	77.36
	Services	60	22.64	100
	Total	265	100	
Educational qualification	Masters	22	8.30	8.30
	Bachelors /HN	89	33.58	41.88
	Diploma/NCE	102	38.49	80.37
	WAEC/WASC	52	19.63	100
	Total	265	100	

Source: authors' computation using SPSS version 22

4.2 Regression results

The regression results indicate that the coefficient of determination R^2 is 0.692 and is significant $p < 0.056$ @95% level of

confidence suggesting that the independent variables jointly explain 69.2% of taxpayers' poor attitude towards tax in Plateau State. Table 2 presents the result.

Table 2: model summary

Model Summary									
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics				
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.832 ^a	.692	.678	.36813	.692	48.922	4	87	.000
a. Predictors: (Constant), electric supply, multiple taxation, Insecurity, access to finance, perceived corruption									

4.4 Test of hypothesis

The regression results indicate that shortage of electric power supply and SMEs negative attitude towards tax are significantly and positively associated ($=.255, p < 0.05$) thus hypothesis one was rejected. This means that shortage of electric power supply is significant in explaining SMEs' poor attitude towards tax in Plateau State.

The results however indicate that multiple taxation and SMEs poor attitude towards tax are not associated ($=.015, p > 0.5$) thus hypothesis two was upheld suggesting that multiplicity of tax as imposed by different levels of government does not have any influence on taxpayers' poor attitudes towards tax. It can then be said that multiple taxation is not relevant in explaining the attitude of taxpayers towards tax in Plateau State since increase in taxes does not bring about any significant increase in SMEs negative attitude towards tax.

We also tested the association between perceived corruption and SMEs' poor attitude towards tax. The result showed perceived corruption and SMEs poor attitude towards tax are positively associated ($=0.342, p > 0.5$). Therefore we

failed to accept hypothesis three. This means that corruption by public office holders and tax administrators contribute significantly in explaining SMEs poor attitude towards tax in Plateau.

The aim of hypotheses four was to test the association between insecurity and SMEs poor attitude towards tax. The findings showed that insecurity and SMEs poor attitude towards tax are positively and significantly associated ($=0.484, p < .5$). Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected. In other words, the level of insecurity experienced in Plateau State is a key factor explaining why SMEs have poor attitude towards tax in the state.

Hypotheses five tested the relationship between access to finance and SMEs poor attitude towards tax in Plateau State. It was found that there is a negative and significant relationship between access to finance and SMEs attitude towards tax in Plateau State ($-.289, p < .5$). Therefore we failed to accept the null hypothesis. Suggesting that the more SMEs have access to formal sources of finance, the more they will have positive attitude towards tax. The results are presented in table 3

Table 3: coefficients

Coefficients ^a								
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.	Collinearity Statistics	
		B	Std. Error	Beta			Tolerance	VIF
1	(Constant)	.443	.523		.848	.399		
	Multiple tax	.015	.084	.013	.181	.857	.709	1.410
	Insecurity	.384	.076	.414	5.025	.000	.521	1.919
	Access to finance	-.289	.068	.363	4.236	.000	.482	2.076
	Electric supply	.255	.105	.184	2.436	.017	.623	1.605
	Perceived corruption	.342	.217	.156	2.35	.002	.416	2.406

a. Dependent Variable: Attitude towards tax

Source: Authors' computation using SPSS version 22

4.5 Discussion of Findings

The result of testing hypothesis one indicate that, shortage of electric supply and SMEs attitude towards tax are significantly related. This is in line with previous studies (Driemerier, Wallsten & Xu 2003). Their result indicates that infrastructural deficit such as power supply affects business performance in Bangladesh. This may be as a result of the fact that, when there is no sufficient power supply to businesses, they may resort to the use of alternative sources such as the use of generator sets. The cost of using alternative sources is higher than getting power from the national grid. This reduces the profits of the SMEs as such they will have a negative attitude towards paying tax to government who are supposed to supply sufficient electricity for businesses to thrive.

The test of hypothesis two indicates that multiple taxes and SMEs negative attitude towards tax are not significantly associated. This result contradicts Oboh, Yeye and Isa (2013) who found revealed that multiple tax practices significantly affect taxpayers' compliance attitude. This contradiction may be as a result of locational differences. The study by Oboh et al (2013) was carried out in Lagos State while the current study was carried out in Plateau State with less multiplicity of tax compared to Lagos.

This study also found that perceived corruption and SMEs negative attitude towards tax are significantly associated. This result is in line Kogler, Batrancea, Nichita, Pantya, J., Belianin, and Kirchler, E. (2013). that Corruption in the public sector erodes tax compliance and leads to

higher tax evasion. Moreover, corrupt public officials abuse their public power to extort bribes from the private agents.

The result also suggests that insecurity and SMEs poor attitude towards tax are associated. This is so because, provision of security is one of the reasons people pay tax to government. If government fails to provide such businesses are affected and will lead to lack of trust between the taxpayers and the government. This lack of trust can result to negative attitude towards tax. This is in line with Baum and Gupta (2017) who documented that trust in government is significantly associated with tax compliance in India.

It was also found that access to formal sources of finance and SMEs negative attitude towards tax are negatively associated. When government put policies in place that promotes SMEs access to formal sources of finance such as bank credit, they will be able to expand their business and make good returns. This will make them have positive attitude towards tax. This finding is in line with Gupta (2018) who found that access to finance increases tax compliance in India.

5.0 CONCLUSION AND COMMENDATION

5.1 CONCLUSION

From the result of our findings, it can be deduced that the shortage of electric supply, insecurity, poor access to formal

finance and corruption are the main reason why SMEs in Plateau State have poor attitude towards tax. In fact it can be concluded that the investment climate in Plateau State is harsh and thereby discourages businesses hence their poor attitude towards tax.

5.2 RECOMMENDATION

Based on the conclusions from the results of the study, the following recommendations are suggested to improve SMEs poor attitude towards tax in Plateau State.

The government should in collaboration with private developers consider expanding alternative sources of power for businesses. Such collaboration should focus on expanding the capacity of power generation in Kura falls. The government should also identify other potential sources such as biogas obtained from domestic waste to supplement the national grid. This can be done through public private partnership.

Government should improve the security around business areas like terminus market, GadaBiyu, Farin-gada, Bukuru, New Market, AngwanRukuba, Rukuba satellite market. This will help protect businesses against vitalisation and improves SMEs attitude towards tax. Adequate measure should be put in place to ensure that SMEs in the state have easy access to formal sources of finance especially from the formal sector.

Revenue officials should also ensure that transparency in the collection and management of revenue from taxes.

5.3 Limitations of the study

The cross-sectional nature of the study self-employment (SE) may not entirely be a reflection of the current changing environment (Blumberg et al, 2014). This limitation may complicate the efforts to rid

the Nigerian Government of the problem in light of the fact that its solution remains largely elusive. Additionally, a number of research assistants were engaged to distribute and collect back answered instruments. Research assistants normally lack theoretical and construct knowledge. This is likely to pose significant limitations in case participants seek clarification on seemingly unclear items.

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