POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT
This study was carried out to evaluate the impact of political participation on economic growth in Nigeria between 1999 and 2016. Premised on the theoretical underpinnings of Riker-Ordeshook cost-benefit calculation theory and the rational choice theory, the study used GDP per capita as proxy for economic growth while political participation was measured by political participation index. Autoregressive distributed lag (ARDL) model was used to estimate the model of the study. The study found no long run relationship between political participation and economic growth in Nigeria. Contrary to theory, however, the study found negative and insignificant relationship between political participation and economic growth in Nigeria. Thus, the study concludes that political participation has not favourably contributed to economic growth in Nigeria due largely to low participation of citizens in political activities in Nigeria. The study recommends increased participation of citizens in political activities in Nigeria so as to reap the full benefits of political participation.

Keywords: Political Participation, Economic Growth, GDP Per Capita, Participation Index.

1. Introduction
In a democratic dispensation, the governance of a country is seen as the collective responsibility of all citizens. A number of studies have seen participatory democracy as the best form of government for any country targeting economic growth and development (Molutsi, 2012; Siegle, 2006). Accordingly, almost all countries of the world are under participatory democracy. The economic growth of a country can therefore be linked to the political participation of citizens.

The importance of political participation to national development cannot be overemphasized as therecannot be genuine development in any democratic society that does not encourage political participation. According to Umezurike and Danfulani (2015), political participation is seen as a panacea for development in a democratic society because, it makespolicies legitimate, as it makes people to have a sense of belonging and canlay claim of ownership of suchpolicies. It is through political participation that the citizens partake in the governance of their country, by so doing, they are able to make input in the decisions and policies of the government, applaud a government that is doing well and oppose a bad government or even remove such government.

The purpose of participation of citizens in the policy making arrangement is to create sense of belonging and awareness necessary for the sustainability of policy despite the nature of such policy, consolidate democracy and engender good governance. On its own, good governance depicts the degree to which institutions of a particular country (such as executive, legislature or judiciary) and process (such as the role of political parties in election) are transparent, accountable to the people and allow them to freely participate in decisions that affect their lives. This is simply because good governance must indeed democratize the process of decision making in a way to guarantee the involvement of the groups for which decisions are being made(Arowolo and Aluko, 2010).

In a political system, the citizens can be involved in the political process and decision making by joining political parties, voting during elections, participating in electoral campaign, community affairs and other political activities. The level and pattern of political participation of the citizens determine, to some extent, the success of the political system. This is the reason why Adelekan (2010) emphasized that ideally, democracy means individual participation in the decisions that involves one's life. In a democratic system, there is the necessity for the citizenry to be fully involved in the democratic procedures of the choice of rulers and effective communication of the public policies and attitudes. Any claim to democratic regime or state must essentially embrace a high degree of competitive choice, openness, and enjoyment of civic and political liberties and political participation that involves all groups of the society (Arowolo and Aluko,2010).

Nigeria as a nation returned to democratic governance since 1999. Expectations of this governance are to provide right to groups and individuals for better accountability, as well as elimination of corruption apparent with other forms of governance, the end result of which is improved economic growth and development. Political participation has been argued to be one of very important determinants for the achievement of these goals. Political participation has indeed found to be one of the important factors that determine economic growth in every economy. However, studies that established empirically, the relationship between political participation and economic growth in Nigeria are rarely available in literature. Few of the studies available did not use economic methodology in attempt to examine the direct impact of political participation on economic growth. It is against this backdrop that this study seeks to investigate, empirically, the impact of political participation on economic growth in Nigeria.

2. Review of Related Literature

2.1 Conceptual Review

Political participation is the involvement of the citizens in the political system. Adelekan (2010) described political participation as the processthrough which the individual plays a role in the political life of his society and has the opportunity to take part in deciding what common goals of the society are and the best way of achieving these goals. According to Falade (2014), political participation is an aspect of political behaviour and it focuses on the way in which individuals take part in politics. It is a voluntary activity and one may participate directly or indirectly. The various ways by which the people can be involved in the political system include selection or election of political leaders, formulation of policies, community activities and other civic engagements.

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According to Awolowo and Aluko (2010), the essence of political participation in any society, either civilized or primitive, is to seek control of power, acquisition of power and to influence decision making. Political participation is a means of contributing ones quota to the political system and overall development of the nation.

The extent to which people participate in the political system differ from person to person. Falade (2008) identified six types of political participants.

These are:

- The inactive: These are the people that take no part in any political activity
- Voting specialists: These are the people that get eagerly engaged only in voting. Besides voting, they are not concerned about other political activities.
- Parochial participants: These people participate in politics occasionally. They vote or get involved in any other political activity only when it affects their personal interest.
- The communalist: These are those who get engaged in voting regularly, they also get involved in community affairs but they are not involved in political campaign activities
- The campaigners: They are actively involved in political campaign but inactive in other community affairs. Complete activists: They are highly involved in all political activities. They actively participate in voting, political campaign, community activities and make contact with public officials.

Political participation therefore refers to the direct or indirect involvement of citizens in the governance of their country through elections, referendums, opinion polls, policy formulation and implementation, campaign

On the other hand, according to Guru (2016), economic growth has been defined in two ways. In one way, economic growth is defined as sustained annual increases in an economy's real national income over a long period of time. In other words, economic growth means rising trend of net national product at constant prices. This definition has been criticized by some economists as inadequate and unsatisfactory. They argue that total national income may be increasing and yet the standard of living of the people may be falling. This can happen when the population is increasing at a faster rate than total national income. Hence, the second and better way of defining economic growth is to do so in terms of per capita income. According to the second view of Guru (2016), "economic growth means the annual increase in real per capita income of a country over the long period. Thus, economic growth means the growth of output per head of population. Since the main aim of economic growth is to raise the standards of living of the people, therefore the second way of defining economic growth which runs in terms of per capita income or output is better (Guru, 2016). To him, the rates of economic growth are measured both in terms of increase in overall Gross National Product (GNP) or Net National Product (NNP) and increase in per capita income.

To Amadeo (2016), economic growth is how much more the economy produces than it did before and that if the economy is producing more, businesses are more profitable, and stock prices rise. That gives company's capital to invest and hire more employees. As more jobs are created, incomes rise. Consumers have more money to buy additional products and services, driving higher economic growth (Amadeo, 2016). Based on him, all countries want positive economic growth. It is measured by changes in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), that is, a country's entire economic output for the past year. Hence, it takes into account all final goods and services that are produced in this country for sale, whether they are sold domestically or sold overseas.

The term "economic growth" according to Daly, Czech, Blackwelder, Magnus-Johnston, and Zencey (2010) has two distinct meanings. Sometimes it refers to the growth of that thing we call the economy (the physical subsystem of our world made up of the stocks of population and wealth; and the flows of production and consumption), that is, when the economy gets physically bigger. But the term has a second, very different meaning-if the growth of some thing or some activity causes benefits to increase faster than costs– that is to say, growth that is economic in the sense that it yields a net benefit or a profit.To Kessier (2012), economic growth occurs when a society

becomes more productive and is able to produce more goods and services. The offering of new goods and services makes economic growth positive but when economic growth is negative for two quarters, we say we are in a recession.
Palmer (2012) regarded economic growth as an increase in the productive capacity of an economy as a result of which the economy is capable of producing additional quantities of goods and services. Most often the country's standard of living is measured by the quantity of goods and services available so that economic growth is synonymous with an increase in the general standard of living. He went further by disaggregating the potential level of output and actual level of output. He put that potential level of output is considers the supply side of the situation i.e. the ability of an economy to produce greater quantities of goods and services or perhaps improved versions of existing offerings. . It focuses on the quantity of goods and services that the economy is capable of producing; whether or not the goods are actually produced depends on the nature of demand While, actual level of output is derived by demand. Thus, it is demand that drives the level of production in the economy towards its potential; it is demand that stimulates the economy and determines the actual level of output in an economy. Summarily, potential growth occurs through investment and actual growth occurs through increases in the level of demand. To him, economic growth and growth in Gross Domestic Product-a measure of the value of the goods and services- is synonymous (Palmer,2012).
Uwakaeme (2015) defined economic growth precisely and concisely as the positive and sustained increase in aggregate goods and services produced in an economy within a given time period. When measured with the population of a given country, then economic growth can be stated in terms of per capita income according to which the aggregate production of goods and services in a given year is divided by the population of the country in the given period. Economic growth can also be stated in nominal or in real terms. Hence, when the increase in the aggregate level of goods and services is deflated by the rate of inflation, we have the real economic growth, otherwise when measured without deflating; it is called nominal economic growth.
Economic growth therefore means the annual increase or improvement in the real per capita income (real GDP per capita or output per person) of a country

over the long period. This is measured from the annual real GDP –monetary value of all final goods and services at market prices-based on constant 2010. The aggregates are based on constant 2010 U.S. dollars.

2.2 Theoretical and Empirical Review

The theoretical relationship between political participation and economic growth is expressed by Levine (2006) in his article on political participation and economic success. He stated that there is a positive relationship between political participation and soci0-economic factors. On the importance of political participation in a democratic setting, Mill (1947)advocates active participation of the common man in the very major decision making of the state. Public offices also must be made open for the masses to join; to say the least; the people have the authority over their representatives who are servants to them (Umezurike and Danfulani, 2017). Mill (1947) emphasizes popular participation for a system to be qualified as democratic.

The reasons behind people's decision to participate in political activities or not are advanced in the Riker-Ordeshook cost-benefit calculation theory and the rational choice theory. According to Riker and Ordeshook (1968), people vote because their vote might decide the election. The participation decision is based on whether B+ðV exceeds C, where B is the private benefit of voting, V is the value of winning versus losing, C is the private cost of voting and ð is the probability of a vote being pivotal. The rational choice theory has played an important role in the analysis of political participation ever since Downs's seminal work, “An economic theory of democracy (1957)”. According to Downs (1957), a rational man is one who always makes a decision when confronted with a range of alternatives by transitively ranking such alternatives in order of preference. He therefore chooses the most preferred alternative. It therefore suffices to say that people choose to partake or not to partake in political activities by making rational choices that are economically beneficial to them. If these benefits are high, political participation will be high as the case may be. It is these economic benefits that culminate into economic growth.

Empirically, researchers have established a relationship between political participation and economic development in Nigeria. For instance, Umezurike and Danfulani, 2015; Oni, 2009; Omilusi and Oguntuase, 2016; Aminu, Gbenga and Bolaji, 2014 found that political participation has positive impact on economic development in Nigeria. Many other researchers have also researched on political factors and found their effects on the economy to be quite significant. Accordingly, Mba and Chukwu (2013) political situation in Nigeria has major effect on economic transformation; Eterovic and Eterovic (n.d) stated that political participation and competiveness have opposite effects on the size of government; Oni and Agbude (n.d) found that some of the factors determining women political participation in Ogun state include socio-economic factors, historical factors and institutional designs; while Folade (2014) found that 57% of Nigerian citizens are not actively involved in political activities in Nigeria. It is quite observable that no attempt has been made in finding out the impact of political participation on economic growth, especially as it relates to Nigeria. The closest studies to the case under study for the Nigerian economy relative to political participation and economic growth are Guseh and Oritsejafor (2007) and Barro (1996). However, these studies did not present the clear evidence of the effect of political participation on economic growth in Nigeria. Specifically, Guseh and Oritsejafor focused on political freedom while Barro (1996) concentrated on democracy which are not ideal measures of political participation. This study is therefore structured to trail this path by empirically investigating the possible impact of citizens' political participation on economic growth in Nigeria.

2.3 Measurement of Political Participation

For the empirical success of this study, some measures of political participation are considered.

Competition Dummy: We measure political competition using the Polity IV index developed by Marshall and Jaggers (2007). The Polity IV index has been used in recent studies as a general indicator of democracy or as a tool to classify political regimes (Avelino et al. 2005; Mulligan et al. 2004; Lopez-Cordova and Meissner 2008; and Persson 2005). However, Vanhanen (2000) noted that the Polity IV index is better suited as an indicator of political competition since none of the five underlying authority characteristics on

which the Polity IV index is based are related to political participation as defined in this study and do not reflect suffrage reforms directly. The five underlying authority characteristics on which the Polity IV index is based are i) Competitiveness of executive recruitment: the extent that prevailing modes of advancement give subordinates equal opportunities to become superordinates; ii) Openness of executive recruitment: recruitment of the chief executive is "open" to the extent that all the politically active population has an opportunity, in principle, to attain the position through a regularized process; iii) Executive constraints: the extent of institutionalized constraints on the decision making powers of chief executives, whether individuals or collectivities; iv) Regulation of participation: the extent that there are binding rules on when, whether, and how political preferences are expressed; and v) Competitiveness of participation: the extent to which alternative preferences for policy and leadership can be pursued in the political arena. Notice that the first three characteristics relate to how easy it is to contest political power or to place constraints on the executive. The last two characteristics refer more specifically to "participation" and the regulation of elections.
Consistent with the arguments presented above, we define a dummy variable - competition dummy - that takes the value of 1 when the Polity IV index is positive and the value of 0 when the index is negative. This variable, therefore, measures the impact of political competition vis-a-vis a counterfactual of "restricted political competition".

Participation Index: We measure political participation by the participation index on the Vanhanen's Polyarchy database (Vanhanen 2000 and 2003a). The participation index is an aggregate of voter turnout in general elections and in referenda, in proportion to the total population. The index takes the value of 0 when there are no elections or referenda to participate in.

3. Research Methodology

Research Design

This study is analytical in nature and comprises of four variables; GDP per capital (GDPP) which is the dependent variable and used as proxy for economic growth, participation index (PI) used as proxy for political participation, political apathy (APTH) and human development index (HDI). The study covers a period of 1999 to 2016. The study period is chosen to reflect the period of uninterrupted democracy in Nigeria.

Kinds and Sources of Data

Based on the nature of this study, data collected are secondary data. The study sources data from World Bank Statistics and Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA). Specifically, GDPP and HDI were sourced from World Bank Statistics while PI and APTH were obtained from the statistic provided by IDEA.

Technique of Analysis

The study employed econometric tools of analysis for estimation of the model. Such econometric tools include unit root test, cointegration test andautoregressive distributed lagged model. Diagnostic tests were also conducted to ascertain the robustness of the results.

(a) Unit Root Test

Empirical work based on time series data assumes that the underlying time series is stationary. Broadly speaking a data series is said to be stationary if its mean and variance are constant (non-changing) over time and the value of covariance between two time periods depends only on the distance or lag between the two time periods and not on the actual time at which the covariance is computed (Gujarati, 2003). This study therefore adopted the Philips-Perron test to ascertain the stationarity of the time series under study.

Phillips and Perron (1988) developed a number of unit root tests that have become popular in the analysis of financial time series. The Phillips-Perron(PP) unit root tests differ from the ADF tests mainly in how they deal with serial correlation and heteroskedasticity in the errors. In particular, where the ADF tests use a parametric autoregression to approximate the ARMA structure of the errors in the test regression, the PP tests ignore any serial correlation in the test regression. The test regression for the PPtests is

$$\Delta y_t = \beta_0 D_t + \pi y_{t-1} + \mu_t \quad - \quad - \quad - \quad (1)$$

Where μ_t is I(0) and may be heteroskedastic. The PP tests correct for any serial correlation and heteroskedasticity in the μ_t of the test regression by directly modifying the test statistics in ADF test. One advantage of the PP tests over the ADF tests is that the PP tests are robust to general forms of heteroskedasticity in the error term μ_t. Another advantage is that the user does not have to specify a laglength for the test regression.

(b) Co-integration Test

According to Granger (1988), a co-integration test can be thought of as a pre-test for avoiding spurious regression given a group of non-stationary series. Variables are said to be co-integrated if they have the same wave length or if they are integrated of the same order over a period of time. Co-integration also implies that the long run movements in the variables are related to one another in a long run equilibrium relationship. Several methods of test for co-integration have been developed but the most important one is choosing a method. The different methods are: Engel and Granger two steps, Johansen's Maximum Likelihood (MLD), Dickey Fuller (DF) or the Augmented Dickey Fuller Unit root test on the residual estimated from the co-integrating regression Durbin Watson procedure, the Johanson and Juselius test.

However, ARDL cointegration test was conducted given the fact that the unit root test result revealed mixed order of integration where some variables were stationary at level while others at first difference (at 5% level of significance). This test is based on Pesaran and Shin (1999) and Pesaran, Shin and Smith (2001). This technique is reported to offer several advantages; the test is based on a single ARDL equation, rather than on a VAR as in Johansen, thus reducing the number of parameters to be estimated. Also unlike the Johansen approach the restrictions on the number of lags can be applied to each variable separately, ARDL method undermines how small a sample size is. The method was therefore used in estimating the relationship between political participation and economic growth in Nigeria given the short period 1999 to 2016 (17 years) and the stationary result that involves its applicability. The ARDL Bounds Test for Cointegration equation is stated below.

$$\Delta y_t = \alpha_0 + \sum_{i=0}^{p} b_i \Delta y_{t-i} + \sum_{i=0}^{p} c_i \Delta x_{t-i} + \sum_{i=0}^{p} d_i \Delta z_{t-i} + \delta_1 \Delta y_{t-1} + \delta_2 \Delta x_{t-1} + \delta_3 \Delta z_{t-1} + \delta_4 + u_t ------------------(2)$$

(c) Diagnostic Tests

The Jarque-Bera test of normality was used to determine if a data set was well modeled by normal distribution. The serial correlation Lagrange Multiplier (LM) test was used to detect the existence of serial correlation independence while the Breusch-Pagan Godfrey heteroskedasticity test was used to test for the existence of heteroskedasticity. The cumulative sum of recursive Residuals (CUSUM) was used to test the stability of the coefficients.

Model Specification

From the study by Eterovic and Eterovic (2012), the following model in its modified form is specified. The model pairs political participation with economic growth and defines economic growth as a function of political participation (proxied by participation index, PI), political apathy (APTH) and Human Development Index (HDI). GDP per capita (GDPP) is used as proxy for economic growth in this case.

The model for the study is therefore specified as follows

$$GDPP_t = f(PI_t, APTH_t, HDI_t) \quad - \quad - \quad - \quad - \quad (3)$$

Where

$GDPP_t$ = Gross Domestic Product per capita

PI_t = Participation index

$APTH_t$ = Political apathy

HDI_t = Human Development Index

In stochastic terms,

$$GDPP_t = \alpha + \beta_1 PI_t + \beta_2 APTH_t + \beta_3 HDI_t + U_t \quad - \quad - \quad - \quad - \quad (4)$$

u = the stochastic error term

α, β_1-β_3 are parameters.

β_1 **and** β_3 are expected to be positively signed while β_2 should be negative.

Thus, an ARDL representation of the model is expressed in equation (5)

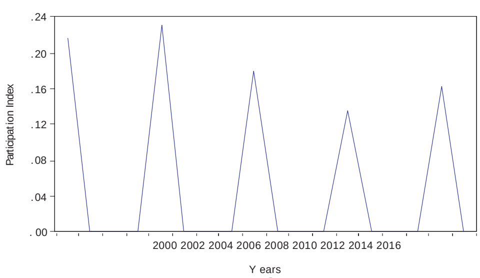
$$lnGDPP_t = \alpha_0 + \sum_{i=0}^{p} \alpha_{1i} lnPI_{t-i} + \sum_{i=0}^{p} \alpha_{2i} lnAPTH_{t-i} + \sum_{i=0}^{p} \alpha_{3i} lnHDI_{t-i} + \sum_{i=0}^{p} \alpha_{1i} \Delta lnGDPP_{t-i} + \sum_{i=0}^{p} \alpha_{2i} \Delta lnPI_{t-i} + \sum_{i=0}^{p} \alpha_{3i} \Delta lnAPTH_{t-i} + \sum_{i=0}^{p} \alpha_{4i} \Delta lnHDI_{t-i} + \gamma ECT_{t-i} + \mu_i \quad ------(6)$$

4.0 Results and Discussion

4.1 Pre-test Analysis

Trends of political participation and Economic Growth in Nigeria

This section analyses the historical movements of political participation and economic growth in Nigeria. In this study, political participation is measure by participation index (expressed as an aggregate of voter turnout in proportion to total population with non-election years assigned the value of zero), while economic growth is measured by GDP per capita. The trends of political participation and economic growth from 1999 to 2016 are presented in the figures below:



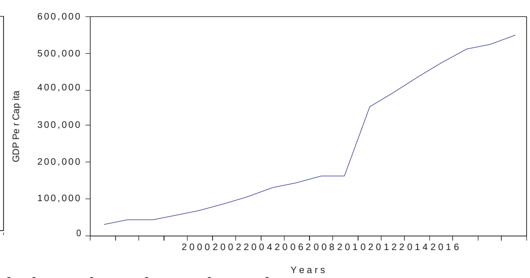


Figure 1: Trend of Political Participation in Nigeria

Figure 2: Trend of Economic Growth in Nigeria

Figure 1 shows the trend of political participation in Nigeria from 1999 to 2016. The figure shows that political participation in Nigeria viz-a-viz total population has been very low with the participation index of as low as 0.22 (22%) during the 1999 general elections. In 2003 however, the participation of citizens in politics rose to 23% of the total population. The trend declined again to 18% in 2007, 14% in 2011 and 16% in 2015 respectively. This highlights the low extent of citizens' participation in political activities in Nigeria, occasional by lack of confidence in the polity due to corruption and political mischief.

Contrary to the level of political participation however, per capita GDP in Nigeria has exhibited a steady rising trend during the period under study. From a marginal increase between 2008 and 2009, there was a spontaneous jump in GDP per capita from N164,443.65 million in 2009 to N349,791.64 million in 2010 and N552,097.46 million in 2016. The sudden growth in per capital GDP was due to expansions in the nation's non-oil industries occasioned by a 45.35% boost in the agricultural sector (Nigerian Curiosity, 2010).

Results of Unit Root Test

To determine the most appropriate estimation technique for the analysis of the impact of political participation on economic growth in Nigeria, test of unit roots was carried out using Philips Perron test. The results of the unit root test are presented below.

Table 1: Results of Unit Root Test

Variables	PP At level	First Difference	1% Critical	5% Critical	10% Critical	Order of Integration
GDPP	0.487884	-3.866170	-3.920350	-3.065585	-2.673459	I(1)
Prob.	0.9807	0.0111**				
APTH	-10.19450	-	-3.886751	-3.052169	-2.666593	I(0)
Prob.	0.0000***					
PI	-8.142536	-	-3.886751	-3.052169	-2.666593	I(0)
Prob.	0.0000***					
HDI	-2.031122	-3.840643	-4.200056	-3.175352	-2.728985	I(1)
Prob.	0.2713	0.0175**				

Source: *Author's computation using Eviews 9*

From the unit root results in Table 1, GDP and HDI are integrated of order one while PI and APTH are integrated of order zero at 5% level of significance. This means that there exists a missed order of integration (0 and 1) which calls for Auto-regressive distributed lag (ARDL) test. The data were therefore estimated in accordance with the procedure required for ARDL modeling. The ARDL Bounds testing was conducted to ascertain the existence of long-run relationships among the variables considered in the study. The results are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: ARDL Bounds Test (F-statistic = 0.680078)

Significance	I0 Bound	I1 Bound
10%	2.72	3.77
5%	3.23	4.35
1%	4.29	5.61

Source: *Author's Computation from Eviews 9*

Table 2 indicates the F-statistic value of 0.680078. Given that the F-statistic is less than the lower and upper bounds at 1%, 5% and 10% levels of significance respectively, the null hypothesis that no long-run relationships exist cannot be rejected. This implies that there is no long-run relationship among the variables considered in this study. Consequently, only the short-run dynamics are estimated. The results of the short run estimates are presented in Table 3

Table 3: ARDL Coefficient Estimates

Variable	Coefficient	Prob.
HDI	13.03404	0.0000
PI	-0.073144	0.7523
APTH	0.027640	0.6317
C	-1.106417	0.0001
F-statistic	327.8630	0.0000

Source: *Author's Computation using Eviews 9*

The results of the short run estimates presented in Table 3 reveal that participation index (PI) which is the prime variable in the study has a negative effect on economic growth in Nigeria given the coefficient value of -0.073144. The magnitude of the coefficient indicates that a percentage increase in participation index will result to a decline in economic growth by -0.07%, which is not statistically significant at 5% level of significance. This implies that political participation has an insignificant negative effect on economic growth in Nigeria. This is due to a number of reasons, first political participation is not an economic activity and free of any economic gains. People who spend more of their time in politics mismanage their valuable economic time which would have been put into more gainful uses. This consequently results into the loss of the time value of money. Second, most of the people who participate in politics do so for selfish reasons. This often leads to social vices and injustices such as political thuggery and electoral malpractices, leading to the emergence of unqualified leaders and corruptible governance all of which lead to negative economic growth. This finding supports the findings of Daniel (2015) that ethnic sentiments which characterize Nigeria's political culture hinders political and socio-economic development, Pereria and Teles (2011) that the consolidation of democracy down plays the importance of the political variable in relation to economic performance. The finding however contradicts the findings of Umezurike and Danfulani (2015), Oni (2009), Omilusi and Oguntuase (2016) Aminu, Gbenga and Bolayi (2014) and Xu (2015) who established a positive relationship between participation in politics and economic growth in Nigeria. The finding also failed to be in tandem with Mba and Chukwu (20913) who found that the political situation in Nigeria has major effect on economic transformation.

The other variables considered in the study (HDI and APTH) have positive effects on economic growth in Nigeria. HDI has the magnitude of 13.03404 and is statistically significant at 5% level of significance.This implies that a percentage change in human development index will positively impact on economic growth in Nigeria by 13.03%. This means that human development positively impact on economic growth in Nigeria.This is because a healthy and well educated person has more capacity to contribute meaningfully to economic growth. The coefficient of ATPTH is positive (0.027640) but not statistically significant. This indicates that a percentage increase in political apathy will bring about 0.3% increase in economic growth in Nigeria. This implies that political non-participation (apathy) has a positive relationship with economic growth in Nigeria. This is because people who have political apathy engage most of their time into other economically gainful ventures leading to wealth creation which subsequently contributes to economic growth.

The R-squared value of 0.985966 indicates that the 98.6% of the changes in economic growth in Nigeria is accounted for by political participation and the other variables used in the study. The optimal performance of the model is justified by the F-statistic'sprobability value of 0.00000. This implies that the model has a good fit.The robustness of the results of the model was checked for serial correlation, heteroscedasticity and normality using Breusch-Godfrey, Breusch-Pagan-Godfrey and Jaque-Beratests respectively. The results are presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Diagnostic Test Results

Test	Probability of Fstatistic
Breusch-Godfrey serial correlation LM test	0.44735
Breusch-Pagan-Godfrey Heteroscedascity	0.8658
Jague-Bera normality test	0.223624

Source: *Author's Computation using Eviews 9*

The probability values of the F-statistics provide reasons to conclude that the residuals of the model are free from serial correlation (not affected by auto-correlation) and heteroscedasticity (residuals are homoscedastic) and they follow the normal distribution (that is , the residuals are multivariate normal). This is because the probability values of the F-statistics are insignificant 0.05 critical values leading to the acceptance of the null hypothesis. The CUSUM which calculates the D.W statistics is situated inside the critical boundaries (the dotted lines) at 5% level of significance. This indicates that the model's estimates are econometrically stable. The result is shown in Figure3.

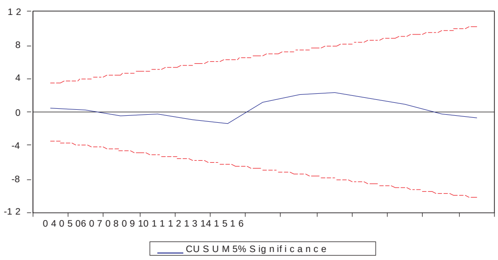


Figure 3: CUSUM of the Model

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

The findings of the study provide evidence to conclude that political participation has not favourably and greatly contributed to economic growth in Nigeria. This is however against theoretical and empirical postulations. This is ascribed to a number of reasons. First most of the people who participate in politics do so for selfish reasons. This often leads to social vices and injustices such as political thuggery and electoral malpractices, leading to the emergence of unqualified leaders and corruptible governance all of which lead to negative economic growth. Second is the low nature of political participation in Nigeria. Low political participation index predicates poor participation of citizens into political activities which is capable of hindering the political and economic progress of the country. The study therefore, encourages more gainful political participation for all citizens so as to reap the dividends of democratic governance and boost economic growth in Nigeria.

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