

Comprehensive Investigation of The Factors That Led To The Abandonment of Lalong's Legacy Projects on The Plateau Between 2015 – 2023

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Abstract- Project abandonment remains a major challenge to infrastructure development in Nigeria, with significant social, economic, and political consequences. In Plateau State, the administration of Governor Simon Bako Lalong initiated the Lalong's Legacy Projects in 2016, comprising 21 facilities - nine primary schools, six secondary schools, and six hospitals - across the 17 Local Government Areas. Although the projects were initially scheduled for completion within 32 weeks at a contract sum of ₦59 billion (later revised to ₦29 billion in 2021), many remained uncompleted by the end of the administration in 2023. This study investigated the causes of project abandonment using survey data from 72 respondents drawn from community members, project staff, government officials, and construction professionals. Data analysis through the Relative Importance Index (RII) revealed that client-related factors, particularly poor contract management (RII = 0.8000) and inappropriate procurement methods (RII = 0.7667), were major contributors. Contractor-related factors such as poor site management (RII = 0.8139) and inadequate technical competence (RII = 0.7917) were also significant. Consultant-related issues, including inadequate design and documentation (RII = 0.8500) and poor feasibility studies (RII = 0.8139), highlighted technical weaknesses. External and community-related influences ranked highest overall, with pandemics and health emergencies (RII = 0.8806), insecurity (RII = 0.8389), and economic instability (RII = 0.7944) exerting the greatest impact. The study concludes that sustainable project delivery requires effective governance, improved technical capacity, and resilience against external disruptions. Recommendations are proposed for government, consultants, and contractors to reduce the risk of project abandonment.

Key Words: Financial Mismanagement, Project Abandonment, Procurement Strategy, Poor Contract Management, Plateau State

I. INTRODUCTION

Project abandonment, often defined as the failure to complete a project within its stipulated contractual period, remains one of the most persistent challenges

in Nigeria's construction sector (Ibrahim, 2014). The problem typically arises during the construction phase - a stage that often determines whether a project succeeds or collapses. Across Plateau State, several uncompleted structures stand as stark reminders of this recurring issue, notably the projects initiated under the administration of former Governor Simon Bako Lalong (2015–2023), commonly referred to as the Lalong Legacy Projects.

Nationally, project abandonment has reached alarming proportions. Estimates suggest that by 2021, Nigeria had over 56,000 abandoned projects valued at approximately ₦12 trillion (Okey & Walpole, 2019; Punch Newspaper, 2022). These projects cut across different sectors and levels of government, pointing to deeper institutional weaknesses in project planning, financing, and implementation.

On the Plateau, the Lalong administration launched an ambitious ₦59 billion development initiative, which was later reviewed to ₦29 billion in 2021 following the fiscal pressures occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative, which focused on constructing model secondary schools and hospitals, was designed to improve access to quality education and healthcare services. However, despite its noble intentions and potential impact, the majority of these projects remain incomplete. Their abandonment raises key questions about the underlying causes and the broader governance issues that continue to undermine project delivery in Nigeria.

Against this background, this study seeks to examine the factors responsible for the non-completion of the Lalong Legacy Projects and to contribute to the discourse on sustainable project execution in Nigeria's public sector.

Statement of the Problem

The Lalong Legacy Projects were conceived as a transformative intervention aimed at expanding educational and healthcare infrastructure across Plateau State. Yet, several years after their initiation, most of these projects remain uncompleted. The state government initially earmarked ₦59 billion - later adjusted to ₦29 billion - for their execution. However, the slow pace of implementation and the eventual stalling of most of the sites have denied citizens the intended benefits and deepened public skepticism toward government projects.

This situation exposes recurring pattern of project abandonment across Nigeria, which calls for a closer investigation of the systemic and contextual issues at play. Potential factors include inadequate funding, weak project planning, ineffective monitoring mechanisms, political transitions, and the disruptive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, the specific interaction of these variables within the Plateau State context has not been thoroughly analyzed.

A comprehensive understanding of these underlying causes is important - not only for ensuring accountability and transparency in governance but also for shaping policies that promote more sustainable infrastructure delivery. Consequently, this study explores the key determinants of the failure of the Lalong Legacy Projects and seeks to propose pragmatic strategies for improving project completion rates in Plateau State and beyond.

Objectives of the Study is to:

1. Identify the institutional, financial, political, and systemic factors responsible for the non-completion of the Lalong Legacy Projects.
2. Assess the impact of project abandonment on access to education and healthcare services in Plateau State.
3. Examine the effectiveness of planning, monitoring, and funding mechanisms in the implementation of the projects.
4. Investigate the influence of external shocks, particularly the COVID-19 pandemic, on project execution.
5. Recommend sustainable policy and management strategies to facilitate the completion of stalled projects and prevent future cases of abandonment.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Project Abandonment

Project abandonment remains a persistent challenge in Nigeria's construction industry, consistently undermining clients' expectations of timely, cost-effective, and quality project delivery (Miri, 2015). Researchers have attributed this problem to a combination of factors, including financial mismanagement, poor planning, inappropriate procurement processes, weak governance, corruption, and political instability (Amoatey & Anson, 2017). In many cases, inadequate feasibility studies lead to unrealistic cost estimates and funding shortfalls, while political transitions often stall or completely halt ongoing projects due to shifting priorities and rivalries among political actors.

Inappropriate Procurement Methods

Procurement plays a central role in determining the success of public construction projects. It defines the responsibilities of stakeholders, delivery models, and strategies for ensuring value for money (Miri, 2015). However, the adoption of inappropriate procurement methods has frequently resulted in the engagement of unqualified contractors, substandard work, and costly delays (Ojo, 2019). Non-adherence to procurement guidelines, weak competitive bidding systems, and nepotism in contractor selection have been identified as major contributors to project abandonment (Adamu & Ibrahim, 2021).

Poor Contract Management

Effective contract management is essential for the successful delivery of construction projects. Conversely, poor practices - such as weak oversight, delayed negotiations, and inadequate communication - often result in disputes, legal battles, and financial losses (Krishnapriya, 2023; Dolo, 2012; Memon et al., 2011; Ofori, 2015). Ineffective monitoring, failure to enforce contractual terms, and the absence of measurable performance indicators further exacerbate project delays and abandonment (Eze et al., 2020; Bello & Olatunji, 2022).

Financial Mismanagement

Sound financial management ensures efficient resource allocation and strict budgetary control, which are indispensable for project success (Solar Veritas Limited, 2025). Yet, frequent misallocation of funds, lack of transparency, inadequate financing

mechanisms, and diversion of resources have repeatedly undermined project viability, leading to delays and eventual abandonment (Nwankwo, 2021; Ogunleye, 2023).

Bureaucratic Inefficiencies

Excessive bureaucracy - manifested in prolonged approval processes, poor inter-agency coordination, and sluggish decision-making - has delayed project implementation, inflated costs, and extended timelines (Okafor, 2020; Sebghatullah et al., 2020; Danjuma, 2022). These inefficiencies remain a major systemic contributor to stalled and abandoned infrastructure projects across Nigeria.

Incomplete Working Drawings

Design-related issues, particularly incomplete working drawings, continue to plague the Nigerian construction industry (Ebekozen, Uwadia & Usman, 2015). Incomplete drawings are a leading cause of construction delays and cost overruns (Dosumu & Adenuga, 2013; Kikwasi, 2012; British Columbia Construction Association, 2011). The quality of project documentation directly affects construction outcomes; poor or incomplete designs often result in construction errors and costly modifications during execution. Adebayo (2021) observed that inadequate design documentation has led to numerous disputes and unplanned additional works, which were not originally captured in project budgets or contracts. Consequently, the lack of thorough planning remains a significant driver of project abandonment in Nigeria.

Case Study: Lalong's Legacy Projects

In 2016, the Plateau State Government launched the "Lalong's Legacy Projects" as flagship infrastructure initiatives aimed at improving education and healthcare delivery across the state

(Independent, 2021; Leadership, 2021). The projects comprised nine primary schools, six secondary schools, and six hospitals, distributed across the 17 local government areas.

Initially awarded at a total cost of ₦59 billion, the contract sum was later revised to ₦29 billion due to fiscal constraints intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic (PM News, 2021; The Nation, 2021). This downward revision reflected the broader national economic realities in which many state governments reprioritized spending in response to shrinking revenues (Adeniyi, 2020).

Although the projects were scheduled for completion within 32 weeks, most remained uncompleted by the end of Governor Simon Bako Lalong's tenure in 2023 (Independent, 2021). A prolonged legal dispute between the government and the main contractor, Bleneson Services Nigeria Ltd., was widely reported as the major obstacle to progress (Leadership, 2021; Freelance Reporters, 2023). The ensuing litigation disrupted re-award processes, created uncertainty, and halted on-site work - echoing previous studies that identify contractual disputes and litigation as major causes of project abandonment in Nigeria (Olawale & Sun, 2015).

More broadly, the Legacy Projects illustrate how poor contract management, weak procurement systems, and adversarial dispute-resolution mechanisms combine with fiscal shocks to derail critical infrastructure (Adeleke et al., 2017; Ojo & Gbadebo, 2019). These projects demonstrate that without robust contract supervision, contingency planning, and effective alternative dispute resolution frameworks, even politically prioritized initiatives risk being abandoned before completion.

Table 1 Is An Inventory Of The Abandoned Lalong Legacy Projects In Plateau State Of Nigeria

S/N	Name of Project	Location	Commencement Year	Expected Completion Duration	Current Status (As At Sept., 2025)
1	Ultra Modern Hospital, Mangu	Mangu	2019	2020	Abandoned
2	Ultra Modern Hospital, Barkin Ladi	Barkin Ladi	2019	2020	Abandoned
3	Government Model Secondary School, Langtang	Langtang	2019	2020	Abandoned

4	General Hospital, Mabudi	Mabudi	2019	2020	Completed
5	Govt College Pankshin	Pankshin	2019	2020	Abandoned
6	Govt College Amper	Kanke	2019	2020	Abandoned
7	Model School, Ajikimai	Shendam	2019	2020	Abandoned
8	Ultra Modern Hospital Bokkos	Bokkos	2019	2020	Abandoned
9	Model School, Kurgwi	Qua'anpan	2019	2020	Abandoned
10	Govt Model Secondary School, Mangu	Mangu	2019	2020	Abandoned
11	Govt Model Secondary School, Dengi	Kanam	2019	2020	Abandoned
12	Ultra Modern Hospital, Yola Road-Wase	Wase	2019	2020	Abandoned
13	General Hospital, Riyom	Riyom	2019	2020	Uncompleted
14	Govt Model Secondary School, Riyom	Riyom	2019	2020	Abandoned
15	General Hospital, Kanke	Kanke	2019	2020	Completed
16	Government Model Secondary School, Barkin Ladi	Barkin Ladi	2019	2020	Abandoned
17	Ultra Modern Hospital, Natonfusa	Jos East	2019	2020	Abandoned
18	Government College Jengre	Bassa	2019	2020	Abandoned
19	Remodeling of Shendam General Hospital	Shendam	2019	2020	Abandoned
20	Ultra Modern Primary, Lamingo	Jos North	2019	2020	Abandoned
21	Ultra Modern Primary School, Gyel	Jos South	2019	2020	Abandoned

Common Factors Leading To Project Abandonment
Several studies conducted by researchers across different countries have identified numerous major factors responsible for project abandonment. Scholars such as Adesina (2011), Essenwa (2004), Kotangora (1993), Rajendran, Seow, and Goh (2014), Dosumu and Adenuga (2011), Baloyi and Bekker (2011), the British Columbia Construction Association (2011), Ramanatham et al. (2012), Love et al. (2014), Alia, Emad, Ashraf, and Mahmoud (2014), Acharya, Lee, and Kim (2006), and Miri

(2015) have extensively investigated the underlying causes of this phenomenon.

Drawing from their findings, this study adopts the general classification of causes proposed by Ayodele and Alabi (2011), which categorizes the factors into four main groups: client-related factors, consultant-related factors, community-related factors, and contractor-related factors. Table 2 presents a summary of these general factors contributing to construction project abandonment.

Table 2: Causes Of Construction Project Abandonment

S/No	Cause of Project Abandonment
1	Inadequate Planning
2	Inadequate Finance

3	Inflation
4	Bankruptcy of Contractor
5	Variation of Project Scope
6	Political Factor
7	Delay in Payment
8	Incompetent Project Manager
9	Wrong Estimate
10	Faulty Design
11	Inadequate Construction Control
12	Change of Priority
13	Improper Documentation
14	Unqualified/ Inexperienced Consultants
15	Administrative/ Legal Action
16	Dispute
17	Natural Disaster

Source: Ayodele, E. O., & Alabi, O. M., (2011)

III. METHODOLOGY

This research employs a qualitative methodology, utilizing semi-structured interviews and document analysis to gather data on the factors leading to the abandonment of Lalong's legacy projects. A purposive sampling technique was employed to select key stakeholders, including government officials, consultants, contractors, and community leaders that were involved in the delivery of the Lalong's Legacy Projects. The interviews were conducted over a period of three months, and the data were analyzed thematically to identify recurring patterns and themes related to project abandonment.

The respondent rated each factor on scale 1 – 5. The Seventy-two well completed questionnaire retrieved formed the data in which the study is based. The data

were analyzed by the Relative Importance Index (R.I.I.) based on the work of Lim and Alum (1995).

$$RII = \sum(W) / A \times N$$

Where:

W = weight given to each factor by respondents (1 to 5 scale) A = highest possible weight (i.e., 5)

N = total number of respondents

n5 = number of respondents who selected 5 (Strongly Agree / Most Important) n4 = number of respondents who selected 4 (Agree / Important)

n3 = number of respondents who selected 3 (Neutral / Moderate importance) n2 = number of respondents who selected 2 (Disagree / Low importance)

n1 = number of respondents who selected 1 (Strongly Disagree / Least important)

Table 3: Presents The RII Ranking For 13 General Factors Based On Responses From 72 Respondents.

Factor	n1	n2	n3	n4	n5	$\sum(W)$	RII	Group Rank
Poor Contract Management	0	0	8	36	28	308	0.85	1
Inappropriate Procurement Method	0	0	10	34	28	306	0.85	2
Lack of Funding/Budget Allocation	0	0	12	35	25	301	0.83	3
Lack of Clear Project Objectives or Scope Inadequate	0	0	19	27	26	295	0.81	4
Incomplete Working Drawings	0	13	19	22	18	261	0.725	5
Bureaucratic Delays	0	14	22	19	17	255	0.70	6

Financial Mismanagement	0	9	26	27	10	254	0.70	7
Inadequate Project Monitoring	0	16	16	29	11	251	0.69	8
Changes in Government Policies or Priorities	0	18	25	14	15	242	0.67	9
Unrealistic Expectations or Requirements	21	13	13	16	9	195	0.54	10
Political Interference	19	20	13	9	11	189	0.52	11
Poor Communication With Host Communities	17	26	11	12	6	180	0.50	12
Changes in Government Leadership	29	13	12	9	9	172	0.47	13

3.1 Stakeholder-Group Analysis (Clients, Contractors, Consultants, Community)

To provide nuanced insights, factors were grouped by stakeholder relation: Clients, Contractors, Consultants, and Community. For each group, RII values were computed (from the same 72 respondents) and factors ranked within the group.

Client-Related Factors

These are issues that originate from the project owner or sponsoring institution. Common problems include inadequate funding, delayed payment to contractors, poor project planning, and frequent changes in project scope. In some cases, weak administrative capacity and lack of commitment from the client also contribute to project suspension or abandonment.

Table 4: Client Related Causes of Lalong's Legacy Project Abandonment

S/N	Causes	1	2	3	4	5	$\Sigma(W)$	RII	Group Rank
1	Poor Contract Management	2	5	10	20	35	288	0.800	1 st
2	Inappropriate Procurement Method	3	6	12	21	30	276	0.766	2 nd
3	Inadequate Project Financing	4	7	14	20	27	267	0.741	3 rd
4	Poor Budgetary Allocation	5	8	14	21	24	259	0.719	4 th
5	Improper Project Planning	6	9	15	20	22	253	0.702	5 th
6	Over-Ambitious Project Scope	6	10	16	19	21	248	0.688	6 th
7	Mismanagement of Funds	7	10	16	20	19	245	0.680	7 th
8	Poor Monitoring and Supervision	8	11	15	20	18	243	0.675	8 th
9	Delayed Payment to Contractors	8	12	16	18	18	240	0.666	9 th
10	Bureaucratic Bottlenecks	9	12	17	18	16	235	0.652	10 th
11	Changes in Government Priorities	10	13	16	18	15	231	0.641	11 th
12	Lack of Political Will	12	14	16	16	14	222	0.616	12 th

Contractor-Related Factors

These factors stem from the construction firms responsible for project execution. They include poor financial management, shortage of skilled labour,

equipment breakdown, and weak project management practices. In some cases, contractors abandon projects due to underestimation of costs, poor cash flow, or disputes with clients.

Table 5: Contractor Related Causes of Lalong's Legacy Project Abandonment

S/N	Causes	1	2	3	4	5	$\Sigma(W)$	R.II	Group Rank
1	Lack of Expertise, Manpower and Machineries	0	5	16	21	30	292	0.811	1 st
2	Financial Incapabilities and Mismanagement	1	6	16	25	24	285	0.792	2 nd
3	Dispute and Claims	0	6	23	25	18	284	0.789	3 rd
4	Incomplete Working Drawings	1	13	20	25	13	281	0.781	4 th
5	Delays in Interim Payments to Subcontractors	1	5	21	15	30	271	0.753	5 th
6	Inadequate Project Planning and Scheduling	1	6	27	21	17	263	0.731	6 th
7	Communication Breakdowns	0	10	23	26	13	258	0.717	7 th
8	Delay in Work Execution	0	5	15	25	26	255	0.708	8 th
9	Non-adherence to Specifications	0	10	23	29	10	252	0.700	9 th
10	Fraudulent Practices and Briberies	1	17	24	22	8	235	0.653	10 th
11	Changes in Government Leadership or Officials	4	17	30	14	7	219	0.608	11 th
12	Political Interference	4	8	30	14	7	201	0.558	12 th

Consultant-Related Factors

Consultants play a vital role in design, supervision, and quality control. However, inadequate supervision, design errors, poor communication, and

failure to provide timely technical guidance often lead to project delays and cost overruns. Ineffective coordination among consultants and stakeholders can further compound the situation.

Table 6: Consultant Related Causes Of Lalong's Legacy Project Abandonment

S/N	Causes	1	2	3	4	5	$\Sigma(W)$	R.I.I	Group Rank
1	Inadequate Design and Documentation	2	4	8	18	40	306	0.850	1 st
2	Poor Feasibility Studies	3	5	10	20	34	293	0.813	2 nd
3	Frequent Design Changes and Variations	4	6	12	22	28	280	0.777	3 rd
4	Inaccurate Cost Estimate	4	7	13	23	25	274	0.761	4 th
5	Poor Supervision and Site Monitoring	5	8	14	22	23	266	0.738	5 th
6	Ineffective Project Management Practices	6	9	15	20	22	259	0.719	6 th
7	Poor Communication with Stakeholders	6	10	16	18	22	256	0.711	7 th
8	Unrealistic Technical Specifications	7	10	17	19	19	249	0.691	8 th
9	Delay in Approvals and Certification	8	11	17	18	18	243	0.675	9 th
10	Limited Capacity and Expertise	9	12	18	17	16	235	0.652	10 th
11	Conflict of Interest/Unethical Practices	10	12	18	16	16	232	0.644	11 th
12	Inadequate Risk Assessment and Management	11	13	18	15	15	226	0.627	12 th

Community (External Forces)-Related Factors

Local communities and external forces can significantly influence the progress of construction projects. Land disputes, pandemic, exchange rates, resistance from host communities, insecurity, and

lack of stakeholder engagement often result in work stoppages. Additionally, demands for compensation or employment by local residents can disrupt project timelines and budgets.

Table 7: Community (External Forces) Related Causes of Lalong's Legacy Project Abandonment

S/N	Causes	1	2	3	4	5	$\Sigma(W)$	R.I.I	Group Rank
1	Pandemic/Public Health Emergencies	1	3	6	18	44	317	0.880	1 st
2	Security Challenges/Insecurity	2	4	9	19	38	302	0.838	2 nd
3	Inflation and Economic Instability	3	6	11	21	31	286	0.794	3 rd
4	Macroeconomic Shocks (Exchange Rates, Oil Prices)	3	7	12	22	28	279	0.775	4 th
5	Land Ownership Disputes	4	8	13	21	26	270	0.750	5 th
6	Interference by Local Leaders/Politics	5	9	14	20	24	263	0.730	6 th
7	Unfavorable Government Policies	6	9	14	21	22	255	0.708	7 th
8	Environmental Challenges	6	10	15	20	21	250	0.694	8 th
9	Shortage of Construction Materials	11	15	19	20	24	246	0.683	9 th
10	Labour Shortages	8	11	16	18	19	241	0.669	10 th
11	Community Resistance/Hostility	9	12	16	17	18	234	0.650	11 th
12	Utility Relocation Issues	10	13	17	16	16	227	0.630	12 th

IV. FINDINGS

The results of this study show that the abandonment of Lalong's Legacy Projects cannot be attributed to a single factor but rather emerges from an interplay of client, contractor, consultant, and community (external) causes. The Relative Importance Index (RII) analysis across the four dimensions revealed distinct patterns that align with previous studies on project failure in developing countries.

From the client side, the leading cause was poor contract management (RII = 0.8000), followed by inappropriate procurement methods (RII = 0.7667) and inadequate project financing (RII = 0.7417). These findings agree with earlier Nigerian studies that stressed the detrimental effect of weak governance, poor contract enforcement, and politicized procurement systems on project delivery (Aibinu & Jagboro, 2002; Olanrewaju & Abdul-Aziz, 2015). Inadequate project financing and poor budgetary allocation and payment delays also ranked highly, pointing to systemic issues of accountability and transparency.

For contractor-related causes, the most prominent factor was poor site management (RII = 0.8139), followed by inadequate experience and competence (RII = 0.7917) and cash flow difficulties (RII = 0.7778). These findings are consistent with prior research that identified poor supervision, lack of managerial expertise, and contractor financial crises as recurring contributors to abandonment (Damoah & Akwei, 2017; Sambasivan & Soon, 2007). Contractor-side inefficiencies typically manifest during execution, directly stalling progress even when financing and designs are in place.

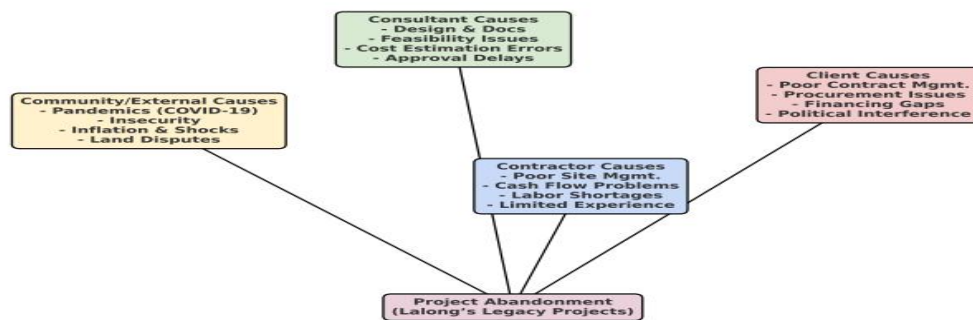
Among consultant-related causes, inadequate design and documentation (RII = 0.8500) and poor feasibility studies (RII = 0.8139) ranked highest. This confirms the central role of technical quality in sustaining projects, as errors or omissions in designs often trigger disputes, variations, and eventual abandonment (Mahamid, 2013). Frequent design changes (RII = 0.7778) further illustrate instability in project planning, underscoring the need for rigorous pre-contract assessments and stable design management.

From the community (external) perspective, the most significant factor was pandemic and public health emergencies (RII = 0.8806), followed closely by security challenges (RII = 0.8389) and inflation and economic instability (RII = 0.7944). These findings reflect the global and national disruptions triggered by crises such as COVID-19 and persistent insecurity in Northern Nigeria, which have been widely reported to paralyze construction supply chains, labor availability, and project financing (Amoatey & Ankrah, 2017; Ofori, 2020). Additionally, macroeconomic shocks (RII = 0.7750) highlight the vulnerability of projects in oil-dependent economies

to currency depreciation and fluctuating revenues, consistent with studies by Frimpong, Oluwoye, and Crawford (2003).

Taken together, these findings are represented in the conceptual framework (see Figure 1), which integrates all four categories of causes into a holistic model. The framework demonstrates how client, contractor, consultant, and community factors converge to produce project abandonment, emphasizing the multidimensional nature of the challenge.

Figure 1. Conceptual Framework of Causes of Lalong's Legacy Project Abandonment. (See Attached Figure)



The framework illustrates the four categories of factors contributing to the abandonment of Lalong's Legacy Projects: client-related causes (e.g., poor contract management, procurement challenges, financing gaps, and political interference), contractor-related causes (e.g., poor site management, cash flow problems, labor shortages, and limited experience), consultant-related causes (e.g., inadequate design and documentation, feasibility study weaknesses, cost estimation errors, and approval delays), and community/external causes (e.g., pandemics, insecurity, inflation, and land disputes). Arrows indicate how these categories converge to produce the central outcome of project abandonment.

V. CONCLUSION, LIMITATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study explored the factors that led to the abandonment of Lalong's Legacy Projects in Plateau State. The findings show that project abandonment did not result from a single weakness, but from a

combination of interrelated problems. On the client side, poor contract administration and flawed procurement procedures were major issues. Contractors also struggled with limited technical capacity, weak financial management, and inadequate supervision. Consultants contributed through lapses in design quality and feasibility assessments, while disputes and disruptions within host communities further slowed progress. Together, these weaknesses reveal the complex and systemic nature of project abandonment in Nigeria, shaped by financial, institutional, technical, and socio-political realities.

However, the study is not without limitations. Much of the data relied on participants' self-reported experiences, which may have been affected by personal bias or political considerations. The focus on Plateau State and the specific case of Lalong's Legacy Projects also limits how far the findings can be generalized. In addition, the study did not include the views of financiers, legislators, or regulatory bodies, whose perspectives could provide a broader

understanding. Being cross-sectional, it also could not measure the long-term social or economic effects of project abandonment.

Based on the results, the following recommendations are offered:

1. Strengthen Contract and Project Management:

The Plateau State Government should promote transparent procurement and enforce compliance with contract terms. Regular monitoring and stronger supervision mechanisms are needed to keep projects on track.

2. Improve Contractor Selection and Accountability:

Contractors should be chosen based on proven technical ability, financial stability, and past performance. The enforcement of performance bonds and penalties for non-compliance will help reduce project failures.

3. Promote Policy Continuity:

Laws should be enacted to protect major capital projects from being discontinued by new administrations. This will ensure continuity in public investment and prevent waste.

4. Ensure Sound Financial Planning:

Projects should begin only after proper feasibility studies and realistic budgeting have been carried out. Setting up special project accounts can help ensure steady funding and prevent delays.

5. Encourage Stakeholder Participation:

Early and consistent involvement of host communities, consultants, and civil society will reduce conflicts and strengthen local ownership of projects.

6. Adopt Technological Tools:

Digital monitoring platforms and Building Information Modelling (BIM) can improve transparency and make it easier to track project progress in realtime.

For future research, it would be useful to compare both abandoned and completed projects across different states to identify patterns that go beyond local factors. Long-term studies should also examine the wider impacts of project abandonment on social services such as education and healthcare. Including the perspectives of financiers, legislators, and

oversight agencies would give a fuller picture of the problem. Exploring digital monitoring and innovative funding options would add depth to the understanding of how project abandonment can be prevented.

Solving the problem of project abandonment requires a collective effort that combines political commitment, institutional reform, and technological innovation. If these recommendations are properly implemented, they can help revive Lalong's Legacy Projects, rebuild public confidence, and promote sustainable infrastructure delivery in Plateau State and across Nigeria.

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