NEXUS BETWEEN FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE GROWTH OF SMALL ENTERPRISES IN NIGERIA

Mr. Bello Enesi Ibrahim	**Federal University of Technology Minna, Niger State**
Ass. Prof. Adeyeye Mercy Modupe	**Federal University of Technology Minna, Niger State**
Mrs Usman Asma'u	**Federal University of Technology Minna, Niger State**
Mr Samuel Agility Michael	**Air Force Institute of Technology, Kaduna**
Mrs Anna D. Iyakwari	**Bingham University, Karu, Nasarawa State**

Abstract

The small enterprises subsector of the Nigerian economy is perceived to be a key factor in the attainment of the twin economic objectives of diversification and growth. It is widely assumed that it has not reached its full potential due to the myriads of challenges bedeviling it, one of which is finance. Therefore, the study investigates the nexus between financial development and small enterprises' growth in Nigeria using secondary data obtained from the Central Bank of Nigeria annual bulletins from 1986-2018.Financial development is proxy by bank loan, financial deepening and lending rate while small enterprises growth is proxy by its contribution to GDP over the reviewed period. The objectives of the study were achieved by testing two hypotheses on long-run relationship and causality effect between the variables using Vector Error Correction Model and Granger Non-causality tests respectively. Findings from the study reveal that there is a long- run equilibrium relationship between the variables. It also shows the existence bi-directional causal effect between each measure of financial development and small enterprises growth except for lending rate where a unidirectional causality is observed. The study recommends that measures to increase bank loans to small enterprises at moderate cost, deepen financial activities and to reduce the negative effect of high lending rate on small enterprises' loans should be encouraged.

Keywords: Financial development, Granger causality, Long-run relationship, small enterprises' growth, Vector Error Correction Mechanism.

INTRODUCTION

The financial sector is an amalgam of a number of institutions and processes. Among these institutions and processes which ease mobilization, usage and transfer of funds are: non-specialised and specialized financial institutions; unorganised and organised financial markets; financial instruments and services. These institutions do not operate in a mutually exclusive

manner, but as a set of complex and organic units both within and between markets cum the economy. Therefore, it is appropriate to assert that the financial system is the central point towards which the growth of a nation's economic activities drifts (CBN, 2011).
The importance of the services provided by financial institutions was emphasized by Schumpeter (1911) when he opined that in order to promote innovation and economic growth, entrepreneurs needed to avail themselves of such services. This view was recapitulated by the central bank of Nigeria's position that the pursuit of financial innovations to aid the real sector can greatly improve the employment content of Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product(GDP) growth. According to the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) (2017), the inability of Nigeria, an economy that depends largely on the oil sector for revenue, to diversify its economy, precipitated the country into the undesirable state of economic recession in 2016.

In recent times, however, the small enterprise subsector has attracted more attention from the government as a veritable path to rapid economic growth of the country. In recognition of the primacy of the financial sector in the development of the small enterprises' subsector, the apex bank introduced a new set of reforms to boost confidence and prop up the banking sector to give rise to a long-term sustainable growth of the economy. These reforms were based on four broad pillars, namely: ensuring that the financial sector contributes to the growth of the small scale enterprise subsector of the economy; enabling a healthy financial sector evolution; establishing financial stability and enhancing the quality of banks (CBN, 2011).

Despite the introduction of reforms which were aimed at fostering development in the financial sector, the small enterprise subsector remains considerably less developed relative to the advanced economies (Orogbu, Onyeizube & Chukwuma, 2018). Furthermore, empirical findings in this area are not in agreement on how and to what extent finance affects the small enterprise subsector (Odeniran & Udeaja, 2010). Some researchers have found that financial development is central to economic growth and development because of its positive impact on investment (Park & Mercado, 2015; Ductor & Grechyna, 2015) while others hold conflicting view to this position (Onakoya, Fasanya& Abdulrahman, 2013; Oriavwote & Eshenake, 2014).

Therefore, the objectives of this paper were to investigate long-run impact and causal relationship between financial development indicators and growth of small enterprises in Nigeria. To achieve these objectives, two hypotheses were tested using Vector Error Correction Model (VECM) and Granger Non-Causality which have been used successfully to achieve similar objectives (Asaleye, Adama & Ogunjobi,2018), using the theoretical framework of Neo-classical Growth Theory. These hypotheses are stated below:
H_{O1}:Financial development has no long-run relationship with the growth of small enterprises in Nigeria.
H_{O2}: There is no causal relationship between financial development and the growth of small enterprises in Nigeria.
The paper is divided into six different sections as follows: 1.0 is Introduction, 2.0 is Literature Review, 3.0 is Methodology, 4.0 Results and Discussion, 5.0 Conclusion and 6.0 Recommendation

LITERATURE REVIEW
The financial sector is made up of a set of institutions and processes. These include:organised and unorganised financial markets; specialised and non-specialised financial institutions; financial instruments and services, all of which ease the mobilisation, utilisationand transfer of funds (CBN, 2011). The existence of a well-functioning and developedfinancial sector to facilitate the mobilization of financial resource for long-term investmentas well as the efficient use of the resulting productive assets is vital to the growth of small scale investment(CBN, 2011; Eriemo, 2014).This is usually achieved through the nurturing and expansion of the markets, institutions, and all the processes that bolster financial intermediation. Central to this nurturing is the

improvement of financial intermediation within the economy (CBN, 2011). Bank loan, financial deepening and commercial bank lending rate have been identified among the major routes through which the development of the financial sector can impact the performance of small scale enterprises (Kiprop, 2013).

Bank loans are credit facilities of specified sums, terms and other conditions made available to individuals and entrepreneurs to start, grow or sustain any productive act for the smooth running of any business (John &Onwubiko, 2013). The terms and conditions of loan facilities determine small enterprises' access to such facilities. When these are friendly, loan facilities are made available at affordable rate which increases access thereby aiding the growth of small scale enterprises. Conversely, unfriendly terms and conditions preventaccess which affects the growth of small enterprises negatively. The function of a well developed financial sector, therefore, is to promote financial stability which would enhance access to credit at affordable rate (Maduka, 2012).It has been shown that growth in financial development has a long-run significant effect on net credit to private sector (Ductor & Grecgyna, 2015). Financial deepening is the increased provision of finance-related services, and access to basic financial services such as credit, savings and insurance. It is often measured by dividing money supply by GDP. The impact of financial sector on investment depends on its depth (Stephen, et al. (2015). The lending rate is could be seen as the amount charged for a loan, usually expressed as a percentage of the sum borrowed over the period of one year. It is the price a borrower pays for the use of money borrowed from a lender/financial institutions or fee paid on borrowed assets The effect of a high lending rate, which is often a feature of an undeveloped financial sector is that it pushes up the cost of obtaining credit which serves as a discouragement to entrepreneurs who are in need of credit (Bello, 2018).

Small scale enterprises have contributed immensely to the economic growth of many developing nations, particularly, Nigeria. They serve as the engine of industrial growth and development of the economy through the enhancement of industrial output, human welfare, economic diversification, utilization of local raw materials, a breeding ground for entrepreneurs and the creation of employment opportunities (Ogbuanu, Kabuoh & Okwu, 2014; Acho & Abuh, 2018; Yunusa & Paul, 2018). Growth is something for which most firms strive, regardless of their size and it is often used as a measure of firm's performance. It is in fact, an indicator of effectiveness for small enterprises. Eniola & Ektebang (2014) have identified net profit, revenue, sales, number of employees, physical expansion, market share and other financial data as common parameters used by firms to measure growth. Despite its significant contribution, Issam (2014) opines that small enterprises in Nigeria are still hampered in their growth ambition by poor funding. The extent of this challenge is the crux of this study.

In 1956, Robert Solow (1924), an American economist and Trevor Swan (1918-1989), an Australian economist, propounded the Solo-Swan Neo-classical Growth Model which explains the role played by labour, increased productivity, and the accumulation of capital in economic growth. The proponents of the theory opined that the assumption of a standard neo-classical production function with decreasing returns to capital would allow an assessment of the rate of growth in an economy. The model demonstrates that a long-run positive relationship exists between capital and technology which are acquired through savings. Principally, the source of capital for new investment and the expansion of existing ones, of which small business and entrepreneurial activities form a substantial proportion, is the financial sector. Therefore, the Solow-Swan mode depicts the financial sector as having the principal function of mobilizing capital from the surplus-spending unit and allocating these resources among investors from the deficit –spending unit for various investment purposes ((Stephen&Olufemi ,2015; Campbell & Asaleye, 2016).

Eriemo (2014) worked on Financial sector development and Nigeria's performance in the global economy from 1980 and 2010 and found that a long run relationship between financial development and growth in Nigeria. Similarly, Alimi & Yinusa (2016) found from their study on the impact of small and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs) credit financing and financial market development and their shocks on the output growth of Nigeria using 1970-2013 annual data seriesthat shocks in commercial bank credit to SMEs has a major impact on the output changes of Nigeria.

Furthermore, Alese & Alimi (2014) investigate the role of SMEs financing as a catalyst for growth rate of the Nigerian economy between 1980 and 2013. The results showed that commercial bank loans as a form of SMEs financing options significantly improved the economic size of the Nigerian economy in the long-run, but not significant in the short-run. Also,
Odeniran and Udeaja (2010) examine the relationship between financial sector development and economic growth in Nigeria from 1960-2009. 2009. The empirical results suggest bidirectional causality between some of the proxies of financial development and economic growth variable. Specifically, they found that the various measures of financial development granger cause output. Asaleye, et al., (2018) also conducted a study on financial sector and manufacturing sector performance and found that a unidirectional causality exists between financial sector and manufacturing sector

METHODOLOGY

This study employed a quantitative research design. The study made use of time series secondary annual data from 1986-2018 on bank loans to small enterprises, financial deepening and lending (interest) rate. Data on these variables were obtained from Central Bank of Nigeria Statistical bulletin (2015, 2017 and 2018). The choice of this period is informed by the many financial activities and reforms which took place in a bid to sanitize the financial sector and make it more relevant in the pursuit of economic self-sufficiency. In 1986, the Structural Adjustment Programme was introduced with the aim of diversifying the production base of Nigeria of which the development of the small enterprise subsector of the economy got unprecedented attention. The period was characterized by a number of reforms in the financial sector which began with liberalization which was aimed at ensuring efficient allocation of resources. This was followed by deregulation policy and eventually the recapitalization policy of 2004 which was aimed at encouraging competition in the banking sector. The period also witnessed the establishment of important institution especially the Nigeria deposit Insurance Company which was established in 1998. In sum, this period was characterized by heightened activities in the financial sector geared toward increasing access to capital for investment purposes (Umejiaku, 2011). Since time series data were collected for analysis, to guarantee robust results, the series were subjected to unit root test using the Augmented Dickey-Fuller test of stationarity. The study also employed cointegration, the Vector Error Correction Model and Granger Non-Causality to investigate long-run relationship and causal effects between small enterprises performance and financial sector development indicators.

Theoretical Framework and Model Specification

The theoretical framework adopted by this study is the Endogenous Growth model otherwise known as the Solo-Swan Growth Model developed in 1957. This theory looks critically at the impact of factor inputs on growth and investment. The theory is expressed as:

$Y = f(K, L)$ ……(i)

Where:

Y= Output; K = Capital; and L = Labour

By factoring into equation (i), the efficiency parameter reflecting the level of technology and output elasticity of both capital and labour, equation (i) can be modified thus:

$Y = AK_t^{\alpha} L_t^{\beta}$ …… (ii)

Where:

A = efficiency parameter reflecting the level of technology; α = Output elasticity of Capital; and β = Output elasticity of labour.

To obtain output per capital which is the factor input of interest in this study, equation (ii) will be divided bylabour. This is given as:

$Y_t = K_t^{\alpha}$ …… (iii)

Capital can be further expressed as:

$K_t = sY_t - dK_t$ ……(iv)

Where:

S = proportion of output saved; d = Rate of physical depreciation

Therefore, to take full account of the long-run relationship between capital and investment, equation (iii) is modified to give:

$Y_t = Asy_t - dK_t$…… (v)

It is evident from equation (v) that output is positively related to capital in the long run. Since the financial sector plays a significant role in mobilizing capital for investment, it could be inferred that the growth in investment is largely a function of the financial sector development.

The Error Correction Model (ECM) is used in building the model for this study. This model is expressed in the form stated below:

$\ell nY_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \ell nY_{t-1} + \beta_2 \ell nY_{t-1} - \beta_3 \ell nY_{t-1} + \sigma i ECM(-1) + \varepsilon t$……(vi)

Where: β_o-β_n are parameters to be estimated from the data and X_1-X_n are the independent variables and Y is the dependent variable for the study.

The specification of the model in this study takes after the model used by Asaleye, et al. (2018). In their work, they used market capitalization to GDP ratio, broad money stock, credit to private sector, prime interest rate, and deposit liability to GDP as determinants of output in manufacturing sector. But this study has reduced the variables to reduce the complexities that could result from interpreting a multi-variable model. This would also allow the study to fully capture the effects of the few independent variables used. Also, instead of using credit to private sector as used in their model, this current study has used credit to small enterprises by banks to reflect the specific issue in this study. The functional expression of the model of this study is, therefore, expressed as:

SSCON = f (FID) …… (vi)

Where: SSCON = Small Scale Enterprises growth proxy by small enterprises contribution to GDP; FID = Financial Development.

By decomposing Financial Development into its various components, this equation becomes:

SSCON = f(BLSE, FDEP, LDR) …… (vii)

Where: BLSE= Commercial Bank loan to small enterprises, FDEP = Financial Deepening, LDR= Lending (interest) rate.

The model is expressed in econometric form as:

$SSCON = \beta_O + \beta_1 BLSE + \beta_2 FDEP + \beta_3 LDR + \mu$ …… (viii)

Where:

β_O= Model intercept; $\beta_1 - \beta_3$= Coefficients of financial development; μ = Error term

However, the error correction mechanism (ECM) form of the model is as expressed below:

$\ell nSSCON_t = \beta 0 + \beta_1 \sum_{t=1}^{n} \Delta \ell nBLSE_{t-1} + \beta_2 \sum_{t=1}^{n} \Delta \ell nFDEP_{t-1} + \beta_3 \sum_{t=1}^{n} \Delta \ell nLDR_{t-1} + \sigma_i ECM(-1)$……(ix)

The variables were expressed in their natural logarithmic forms to ensure that the variables are standardized for comparison purpose.

The a priori expectation of the functional relationship between the dependent variable and each of the independent variables is as stated below: the intercept ($\beta_{0)}$ is expected to be positive. This implies that the value of the dependent variable is positive if all the independent variables remain unchanged; bank loan to small enterprises and financial deepening are expected to be positively signed while bank lending rate is expected to be negatively signed.
That is: $\beta_0 > 0$; $\beta_1, \beta_2 > 0$; $\beta_3 < 0$.

Data Description
The dependent variable of the study is SSCON. This is the contribution of small enterprises activities to GDP in billions of naira. The first independent variable is BLSE. This is defined as the total loan facilities of commercial banks to small scale enterprises in billions of naira. The second independent variable is FDEP. This is called financial deepening and it refers to the ratio of broad money supply (M_2) to GDP. The third independent variable of the study is the lending rate(LDR). It is the yearly percentage of the loan outstanding. Data for the various variables of the study were obtained from central bank statistical bulletin 2015, 2017 and 2018.

Estimation Techniques
The study conducted a unit root test employing the Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) test to determine the time series properties of the included variables. The null hypothesis of the existence of a non-stationary time series is H_O: W=O. When this is rejected, the test is conducted on further differences of the series until stationarity is attained.

The Johansen cointegration test (Johansen & Juselius,1990) with its implied error correction mechanism was used to test the existence of a long-run relationship between the variables. The trace test and the maximum eigenvalue test were employed to test the assumed presence of r cointegrating vectors. The null hypothesis of no cointegrating equations would be rejected if the Trace test and Max-eigen test statistics are lower than the 0.05 level critical tests. Based on the Granger Representation Theorem (GRT), if two variables are co-integrated, there exists an Error Correction Model (ECM) which relates these variables in the short run while maintaining the consistency of the OLS estimated long run parameter obtained in the co-integrating regression. To check for causality and its direction among the variables, the Granger causality test was performed. The decision rule states that if the probability value is between 0 and 0.05 there is a casual relationship; otherwise, there is no causal relationship.

Empirical Results and Discussion
Table 1 below shows the result of the ADF test conducted to check the number of unit root contained in the series:

Table 1: Unit Root Test Result (ADF)

Variable	Critical value at 5%	T- statistic (tα)	p-value	No of unit root
SSCON	-2. 957110 I(0)	-1.998342	0.3251	I (1)
	-2. 986225* I(1)	-3. 401263	0.0207	
BLSE	-2.960411 I(0)	-1.638055	0.4518	I (1)
	-2. 960411* I(1)	-8.390614	0.0000	
FDEP	-2. 957110 I(0)	-0. 769327	0.8142	I (1)
	-2. 960411* I(1)	-5.494063	0.0001	
LDR	-2.957110* I(0)	-5.395981	0.0001	I (0)

- Indicates significance at 0.05 level

Source: Authors' computation (2019), using E-views7

The results as indicated by table 1 shows that only one of the variables (LDR) is stationary at levels with a critical value of -2.957110 at 5% level which is less than the t-statistic (t**α)** value of -5.395981 with a p-value of 0.0001. The results also indicate that the variables: SSCON, BLSE, and FDEP are

nonstationary at levels where their respective critical values at 5% level are greater than their associated t-statistics (tα). They however became stationary at first difference.

Table 2 shows the result of the Johansen Co-integration test the long-run relationship among the variables.

Table 2: ***Johansen Co-integration Test Result***

Hypothesized No. of CE(s)	Trace Statistic	0.05 Critical Value	Prob**	Hypothesized No. of CE(s)	Max-Eigen Statistic	0.05 Critical Value	Prob**
None*	69.53114	47.85613	0.0001	None*	35.50900	27.58434	0.0039
At most 1*	34.02215	29.79707	0.0154	At most 1*	28.19552	21.13162	0.0043
At most 2*	5.826625	15.49471	0.7159	At most 2	5.782896	14.26460	0.6412
At most 3	0.043730	3.841466	0.8343	At most 3	0.043730	3.841466	0.8343

Both the Trace test and Max-eigen value test indicate 2 cointegrating equations at 0.05 level
* denotes rejection of the hypothesis at the 0.05 level
Source: Author's Eviews result (2019).

The Johansen cointegration test result shown on table 2 above indicates that both the Trace and Max-eigen value tests (statistics) indicate two (2) cointegrating equations at the 0.05 level. Therefore, this implies that there is a long-run relationship among the variables of the study for the chosen period. This is supported by the Endogenous Growth Theory as well as Supply-Leading and Demand-following Hypotheses which hold that there is a long-run relationship between the financial sector, technology, savings and investment (Robinson, 1952; Solow, 1956).
Consequent upon the result obtained from the Johansen cointegration test on table 2, which shows the presence of a long-run relationship among the variables, the study proceeded to estimate the Vector Error Correction model (VECM). The result is presented in table 3 below:

Table 3: Short-Run Relationship of the Error Correction Model Result

Variable	Coefficient	Standard Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	0.215945	0.07733	2.79252	0.0063
D(LSSCON(-1))	-0.005500	0.22080	-0.02491	0.0028
D(LBLSE(-1))	0.010715	0.10670	0.10042	0.0000
D(LFDEP(-1))	0.049947	0.619883	0.08057	0.0513
D(LLDR(-1))	-0.175014	0.22176	-0.78919	0.0319
ECM(-1)	-0.048251	0.05545	-0.87009	0.0451
R-squared = 0.6555047; Adj. R-squared = 0.586056; F- Statistic = 9.415346				
VEC Diagnostic Test Results Serial correlation= 0.8840; Normality test(Jacque-Berra = 0.0620; Heteroskedasticity = 0.9097				

Source: Authors' computation(2019), using E-views7

The table above shows that the error correction term (ECTs) is negatively signed (-0.048251) and statistically significant (p-value = 0.0451).This indicates that the error correction terms cause small enterprises to converge to its long-run equilibrium path in relation to changes in the various measures of financial development used in this study. It shows that previous year deviation from long-run equilibrium is corrected in the current period at the adjustment speed of 4 percent.

Although, this rate of adjustment is slow, it nonetheless, shows an annual adjustment in short run deviation from equilibrium in the growth of small enterprises in Nigeria.

The result shows further that all the measures of financial development included in the study are appropriately signed in conformity with a priori expectations as established by theories and empirical literatures. It is evident from the table that a percentage increase in bank loan to small enterprises (LBLSE) in Nigeria results in one percent increase in the growth of small enterprises in Nigeria, on average ceteris paribus, in the short run.. This result is in agreement with the findings of Eriemo, 2014; Alase & Alimi, 2014 and the Endogenous theory propounded by Solo and Swan in 1956. It however disagrees with the finding of Nwosa & Oseni (2013) whose finding revealed that bank loan to SME sector had insignificant impact on manufacturing output both in the long and short run. Similarly, the result indicates that a percentage increase in financial deepening (LFDEP) is associated with 5 percent increase in the growth of small enterprises in Nigerian on average ceteris paribus, in the short run. However, this result is shown to be insignificant with a p-value of 0.0513 which is higher than the 0.05 critical levels. This result is in tandem with the findings of Asaleye, et al., (2018), though, it is in conflict with the findings of Maduka, (2015) who found an insignificant effect of financial deepening on the growth of output and that of Odeniran & Udeaja (2010), who found and independent relationship between manufacturing sector output and financial deepening in Nigeria. The insignificant effect of financial deepening on small enterprises growth in Nigeria could be attributed to the undeveloped nature of the financial sector when compared to that of the developed economies where financial deepening is found to impact significantly on the growth of output. Lastly, the result also shows that lending rate (LLDR) is negatively signed. With a coefficient of -0.175014 and a p-value of 0.0319 which is lower than the 0.05 critical levels, it implies that a percentage increase in lending rate would cause a 17 percent decrease in the growth of small enterprises in Nigeria, on average ceteris paribus, in the short run. This result is in agreement with the finding of Eriemo (2014) who found that a high interest rate is detrimental to the growth process in Nigeria.

Table 4: Pairwise Granger Causality Test Result

Null Hypothesis:	Obs.	F-Statistic	Prob	Decision
LSSCON does not Granger cause LBLSE LBLSE does not Granger cause LSSCON	31	0.16783 1.08400	0.0008 0.0360	→
LSSCON does not Granger cause LFDEP LFDEP does not Granger cause LSSCON	31	5.78725 0.76850	0.0083 0.0474	← →
LSSCON does not Granger cause LLDR LLDR does not Granger cause LSSCON	31	1.09109 0.07389	0.3507 0.0290	← →

Source: Authors' computation(2019), using E-views7

The table above shows the causal relationship between each of the included measures of financial development used in this study and small enterprises growth proxy by small enterprises contribution to national GDP and the direction of causality. It is obvious from the table that there is a bi-directional causal relationship between small scale enterprises performance(SSCON) and bank loan to small enterprises (BLSE) in Nigeria from 1986-2018. This implies that the growth of small scale enterprises Granger cause bank loan to small enterprises for the time covered by the study and vice versa. The table shows a bi-directional causal effect between small enterprises growth and financial deepening. With p-values of 0.0083 and 0.0474, which are lower than the 0.05 level, the null hypotheses of no causal effect between the variables are rejected. The study therefore, concludes that small enterprise growth Granger cause financial deepening and vice versa. The result also shows there is a unidirectional causal effect from lending rate to small enterprises growth. Since this result shows that there is a causal relationship from each of the various measures of financial development, inference can be drawn that financial development granger cause small

enterprises growth in Nigeria from 1986-2018. This result is in tandem with the findings of Hurlin & Venet (2008) and Asaleye, et al.(2018) who found that there is a causal relationship from financial development to growth.

CONCLUSION

The study x-rayed the nexus between financial development and small enterprises growth in Nigeria using time series data obtained from CBN from 1986-2018. From the analysis of the results obtained, the study concludes that there is a long-run relationship and causal effect between financial development and the growth of small scale enterprises in Nigeria for the reviewed period. The implication of these results is that the development of the financial sector of the Nigerian economy will lead to growth in the small enterprises subsector in the long run. Availability of finance at affordable rate will improve credit access of small enterprises which encourages rapid growth of small enterprises contribution to GDP. The paper also concludes that the bi-directional causality between loan to small enterprises, financial deepening and growth of small enterprises indicates that improvement in any of the variables will lead to improvement in the other variable.

RECOMMENDATION

In view of the findings, the study recommends the following policy measures:

- The government should review existing economic policy aimed at deepening financial activities in the country.
- Since the results show a birectional causal effect between small enterprises performance and bank loans, it is recommended that small enterprises should avail themselves of the loan facilities provided by banks so they can expand their operations and contribute more significantly to economic growth of Nigeria.

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