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Abstract  The major challenge every responsive and responsible government must contend with is to make life better and more meaningful for the citizenry irrespective of whether such government is a democratic one or a military dictator if the regime is to have relevance and continue to enjoy legitimacy in the eyes of the governed. Every successive government in Nigeria since independence has put up one strategy or the other aimed at alleviating poverty, and put smiles on the faces of the governed. Using a qualitative method, the objectives of this paper amongst others are (i) to critically examine the various poverty alleviating programs, reforms and strategies, which had been undertaken by successive Nigerian governments and the reasons behind the success or failure of such programs. (ii). To articulates and profound useful strategies that if faithfully implemented would lead the nation out of the present dungeon of poverty and set the nation on the right map of sustainable economic development. Such programs include Direct government participation to be tagged “The Youth Agricultural Revolution,” Dedication and Commitment on the part of successive governments to faithfully implement good policies; continuity of good government programs such as Peoples’ Bank, DFRI and lastly, if Nigeria must bear good fruits, the nation must return to its source which is God; amongst others.