

POLITICS OF REGION-BUILDING IN NIGERIA'S DEMOCRATIC EXPERIENCE SINCE 1999

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Abstract

This research paper examines the politics of region-building in Nigeria democracy since 1999. Since the return of democracy in Nigeria after several military junta that disrupted the nations civilian rule, Nigeria and its consideration on political development, is one of the fundamental benefits anticipated of any democratic system. The thrust of this paper is to bring to limelight why Nigeria democracy since 1999 is yet to fix in motion inclusive mechanism for its non-uniformity, but dynamic regional based politics to nationhood. Therefore, politics of region-building been antithesis for nation-building required for democratic principle towards attainment of unity in diversity. This *expose* considers some of the strenuous and intractable challenges militating against the Nigerian democracy and nation-building, such as regional political structure, the challenge of socio-economic inequalities, the constitutional challenges, institutions for leadership challenges, poverty, ethnicity and corruption among many others. The paper posits that that major challenge to Nigeria's nation building and development is politics of region-building. The sources of data collection used were mainly secondary and tertiary. The conclusion is interspaced by proposing considerable mechanism adopted by Nigeria government in relation to nation-building and political development to enthrone and promote good governance, social justice by integrating democracy and divergent nation into nationhood.

Keyword: Politics, Region building, Nigeria and Democracy

Introduction

Since the attainment of democratic system of governance after the disruption caused by military junta that heralded the independence of Nigeria from colonial authority, Nigeria state since 1999, a period of new democratic dispensation has been bedevilled with the intractable problems of building, moulding in Nigerians a stable and virile nation. This challenging circumstances has demonstrated all-round very difficult to deal with, this impossible situation is because of the conjugating gametes that are different in size, structure and nature of the country's population and geographical configuration which has been posing a great obstacle to the notion of realizing an indivisible country that is devoid of, politics of region building that never services the general intent of Nigeria democratic system. The nation state of Nigeria is balkanized along ethnic and regional lines and its core six geo-political spaces is dominated by the Hausa-Fulani- Janjaweed in the Northern divide, the Yoruba- Oduduwa's extraction in the western part of Nigeria and the Igbo- Biafran nation in the East. This regional political division is in addition to the over two hundred and fifty ethnic nationalities that configured and birthed the unholy union called Nigeria State.

The important overview of these research paper, politics of region building in Nigeria democracy since 1999 is not just well-timed but significant for a post analytical test and careful

thought on the past twenty years of the nation's democracy and how it provided the country with the necessary democratic ingredients that would in no doubt foster spirit of nation-building, lacking in politics of regionalism. Unequivocally, Nigeria's nation-building and democracy is truly at a crossroad, this is where in recent times politics of regionalism base on tribal learning and identity has dethrone our basic collective responsibility as a people and start worshiping dividends and meritocracy base on who you know and where you come from. Although there has been much progress in the years since 1999 political transition, there are also deep-seated problems of structure, instructional weakness; performances there are jeopardizing the democratic experiment and the nation quest for national integration as well as inter-group relations.¹ According to Dawood, Nigeria's political class is fragmented and contentious, its institutions largely feeble or dysfunctional.² contextualize to the above assertion it is obvious to state that components of good governance that reasonably justify the existential of people in Nigeria is lacking. Public commodities are lacking, the greater number of the population starved of good condition of living, and an ubiquitous of social unrest and violence has severely weaken the cohesive source of stability and security in every part of the federation as a result of the people's knowledge to issues of regional polities, where nation-building and economic development is lacking. Thus, ethnic, religious and regional polarization has controvertibly exacerbated in recent years, ushering further doubt about a destructible nation-building and national integration.

Until the returned of civilian rule otherwise known as the fourth republic which came into full force in 1999, civilians only governed for four short years which comes periodically and can be re-elected if consider fit for the next four years bringing the total number to Eight years in the present day democratic dispensation. This is done in good fate for good of Nigerian national development and to ensure every wealth, economic and political distributions across the different geo-political zone in the country. Historically, therefore, the dearth of democratic experience has generated humongous challenges to institutionalizing democracy and nation-building for socio-economic and political development in Nigeria.

It is instructive to note that when on may 29, 1999 democracy returned to Nigeria, the people's expectations where highly facilitated. Hence, the dominant attitude and orientation among the good citizens of the country was full of positivity; as the general feelings was justifiably that of jubilee celebration, "A special year of emancipation and celebration! We are free! We can do what we like". In these developments, many now anchored their faith on the believed that the government and its new leaders would facilitate the promise land and provide everything. On the other hand, others expressions connote that the country's struggling political system would finally be improved. Notwithstanding, since the returned of democratic rule in 1999, instead of blessed state of prosperity, land filled with milk and honey, inter-group relations and virile nation, Nigeria has retrogressed. Presently, the middle-ranking Nigeria encounter series of exasperation, hopelessness, and wanton killing of people owing to the inability of government to anchor the anticipated dividends of democratic governance. In the light of the foregoing therefore, there's yet high rate of unemployment, increased level of abject poverty, unjust attitude of doing things, power imbalance, corruption and injustice in the allocation of the nation's collective wealth and resources. By that, inventing disunity among the different ethnic nationalities along regional lines, what could be described as the antithesis of nation-building and national development. Furthermore, the widening opportunities of the political atmosphere by the return to democracy have no doubt not only resurrected the dying hopes of these minority groups that had been up until this time been marginalized and discriminated against. Besides, this has also paradoxically resonated the game in the contestation for opportunity to power and resource control otherwise known as national cake. To this effort,

demands for responsiveness and inclusion have been limited, as much as the politics of exclusion have equally been violently cruel and destructive. This is against the slogan of “One Nigeria” which ought to be the bedrock for democracy and nation-building.

Conceptual Clarifications

Nation-Building

To clearly comprehend the notion of nation-building, the meaning of a nation becomes significant in this context. Foremost clarification of nation conceived it as a group or race of people who share history, traditions, and culture, sometimes religion, and usually language.³ This implies seemingly that the people of the nation on a general note share a common selfhood. As part of the process, nation-building notwithstanding, becomes building of a common identity. According to Igbini, distinction can be drawn between ethnic nations based in race or ethnicity and give nation based on common identity and loyalty to set of political ideas and institutions as well as the linkage of citizenship to nationality.⁴ Even so, the modern knowledge and application of the term nation is speedily undermining its test and efficacy of old century order and is currently in connotation with the sovereign entity whose citizens are united by a common language. A state is more properly, the governmental paraphernalia through which a nation governs itself. Igbini postulating, said a nation may be likened to an umbilical cord that joins the foetus with its mother thereby creating an everlasting bond that is sustained after delivery and through breastfeeding.⁵ Similarly, a state is like an instrument that either build-up or destroy this bond or linkage. Hence, it is the nationhood that would substantially credit the state the general acceptable recognition to operate effectively.

Once a nation is not built and rooted on a solid and enviable level of comparative evaluation and quality standard, state inability to deliver on constitutional and democratic mandate becomes difficult and cohesive source of security and peace guaranteed. The implication is that a state with good foundation fails not once those necessary ingredients that sustain a nation are ready available for cohesive national development.

Therefore, with the above state in mind, a nation is here seen in a more rational sense as that which de-emphasizes regional and tribal divergence in environmental or political commonality in spite of the degree of regional cum ethnic groups that constitute the nation-states. Furthermore, Nwabughuogu is of the opinion that a nation in the original sense is a body of people having the same language, culture, common historical experience and popular will and living in the same territory.⁶ In accurate cycle of human knowledge, a nation entails a group of human beings that possessed much in common with tribal grouping, but in turn explicate having variance of political characteristics, hence, it involves the feasibility and achievability of a nation-state.

Having digested the concept and attribute of nation, it is however pertinent to dissect properly and to understand the notion of nation-building. Therefore, it was Carolyn who once noted that; Nation-building is a normative concept that means different things to different people. The latest conceptualization is essentially that nation-building program and those in which dysfunctional or unstable or “failed state” or economics are given assistant development of governmental infrastructure, and society, dispute resolution mechanisms, as well as economic assistance, in order to increase stability.⁷

The raw material of the above assertion has it that nation-building literally, presupposes that some persons are doing the consolidation by building deliberately and sensitively. The building must be well conceived and adequately concretized if the framework were to mirror the choice

of the builders. The notion of nation-building has been seen as the use of fundamental institutions that underpins and prop against ending transition of uncivilized administrative system to democracy. Alesina *et al*, conceive nation-building as a process which leads to the formation of countries in which citizens feels a sufficient amount of commonality of interest, goals and preferences so that they do not wish to separate from each other.⁸ Nation-building, in the light of the foregoing could be seen as a platform for collective assemblage of state might and governance, instrument which is geared towards achieving a nation that is politically cohesive, stable and economically viable, prosperous both in human and capital development in the process.

According to Deutsch, the process of nation-building could be seen as an architectural design or a mechanical model that could be built based on authority, needs, and plan of the designer.⁹ Eme, in his work believes that at this stage, nation-building involves its citizens' loyalty towards their country of residence, and reduces their prioritizing their own ethnic base.¹⁰ Two scholars are of the view that nation-building are societies that are created from historical point of view party because they share things in common with territorial and blood consanguinity similar, political, socio-economic and other normative practices that objectify their language, culture and name. For instance, countries that are committed and engrossed in the process of nation-building are countries with past historical experience such as colonialism and series of military interruption/intervention. This is why 2003 study by James Dobbins *et al*; defines nation-building as "the use of armed forces in the aftermath of a conflict to underpin an enduring transition to democracy."¹¹ These suffices it to say that nation-building therefore is the challenge of coasting to victory for the political system, the unalloyed loyalty and desirous participatory involvement of its citizens in a democratic settings. What should be understood by students of nation-building is that, the concept of nation-building is identical to national integration yielding similar result that produces national development. More so, national integration as an appendage of nation-building is sequel to bringing together culturally and socially non-continuous groups into one fold, territorial component units and consequence upon to setup of a nation identity.

The Root of Regional Polities in Nigeria

Regionalism from political standpoint of view is a term used to classify in political setting, human groups who have strong belief that they have common identity and common goal because they share common origin, history, traditions, languages and culture. In colonial Nigeria, what is presently hilly regionalism by Arthur Richard the then governor-General of Nigeria in 1943 constitutional promulgation is a major challenge to the process of nation-building in today's Nigeria. This is partly because regionalism resonate selfish aggrandizement on the side of the regional leaders, who with unbridled rapaciousness advance their cupidity at the expense of national interest. Regionalism to say the least, foster and as well patronize group loyalty, breeds mediocrity, and above all, the obvious cankerworm of sectionalism which has in no small measure persistently continued to portend dangerous scenario against the socio-economic and political development of Nigeria especially in a democratic era since 1999.

According to E. N Ota, the Richard Constitution which he promulgated introduced an appreciable degree of liberation, and represented a modest political concession of Nigeria. Unfortunately, it also over-dramatized and exacerbated ethnic awareness, suspicion and hostility by dividing into three regions, namely, the Eastern Region, the western Region, and the Northern Region.¹² This division laid the foundation of what region building in post colonial Nigeria with intractable challenges.

Indeed, Arthur Richard constitutional promulgation marked the genesis of Nigeria regional politics which has continued to rear its ugly head against the hallmark of national integration process and democracy. Besides, the embers of regionalism in Nigeria political landscape were invigorated during the colonial period noted earlier. Subsequently, it reverberates in the nature and pattern of political party formation which followed along regional and ethnic lines. For instance, at the development of nationalist struggle in Nigeria, the Northern People's Congress (N.P.C) in the north, the National Council of Nigeria and Cameroon (NCNC) in the east and the Action Group (AG) in the west were formed.¹³ The foremost political upheavals that jeopardized the existence of Nigeria in the 1962/63 census and the crisis ridden 1964 federal elections, had their root causes traced to ethnic and regional inclination. Despite the fact that the allocation of seats in the national assembly or House of Representatives was basically the outcome of census enumeration, each political party endeavoured to manipulate the census results in the region where they have influence and dictate group loyalty.

Population census has been a source of political unrest, which is not peculiar to Nigeria, but to many developing heterogeneous societies.¹⁴ During census exercises, it has been in the character of stakeholders in politics to grasped this chance to orchestrate civic unrest in a bid to achieve their selfish and clannish interests in Nigeria political history. Accounts of census crises in Nigeria are copiously available for reading consumption and analytical review starting from the 1962 census crisis to the 1963 census that came with some elements of opposing opinion. The then governor of Eastern Region, Dr M.I Okpara and his Mid-western counterpart, Chief Dennis Osadebey in collaboration with the Action Group (A.G) rejected the census figure on the grounds that the figures were highly inflated in favour of the northern region.¹⁵ Evidentially, the census head-count done since independence of Nigeria have been characterized by dubious processes and criminally influenced to favour a particular region of the country (the North) to the disadvantage of the southern enclaves of the country in a manner the country registered avalanche of jeer and criticism in the 1973, and 1991 and 2004 censuses. Their outcomes were equally repudiated by almost all states in southern political space of Nigeria on the basis that the results were skewed in favour of the Northern region.

Politics of region-building is an obvious hook-worm in Nigeria political system and these ignites political crisis and restiveness in Nigeria as witnessed in the 1964 agitations during the federal elections of that year.¹⁶ The consequences of the census were soon to manifest in the squabbles that led to the avoidable 1967-1970 Nigeria- Biafra war.

The Challenges Bedevilling Nation-Building in Nigeria

Nigeria nation-building hitherto is faced with some obvious intractable challenges and this militating factor has made it uneasy for Nigeria institutionalized system to achieve national development and integration. Some of these issues have persistently severed Nigeria from succeeding in multidimensional ways. These challenges are explored anon.

The Challenge of History:

The historical legacies of colonial rule according to Gambari, created some challenges for nation-building. Colonial rule divided Nigeria into North and South with different land tenure, local government administration, educational systems and judicial systems.¹⁷ Gambari stated that, for instance, large British colonies like India and Sudan had a single administrative system, Nigeria had two, one for the North and one for the south. It was almost as if these were two separate countries, held together only by a shared currency and transportation system.¹⁸ The crop of Nigeria social class with certain degree of economic and intellectual capacity the country had in the 1950s and 1960s saw their access to education and world-view shaped by

the rising factor of regional institutions prevalence even to this contemporary era. They were however constrained by knowledge about their neighbours and its environment. In view of these circumstances, it was on a lighter mood for adverse judgement and phobia to prosper. Nonetheless, within the era of struggle against colorization, Nigerian foremost anti-colonist from different regions strife each other as much as they contended against the British colonizers. This was because Nigerians have been suspicious of themselves without central command or figurehead that would lead their warhead. They were seen divided without a rallying point for coordinated warfare unlike what was seen under Kwame Nkruma in Ghana or Nelson Mandela in South Africa. Unfortunately, in Nigeria each region let loose its own general ship. For the foregoing historical legacy bequeathed on Nigeria, consequently, regionalism has been a bane for nation-building in Nigeria. The southern/northern divide to this end continued to undermine all efforts at unity in diversity as it were.

ii. Constitutional Challenge

The challenge that Nigeria has faced since independence with till date is the achievement of cohesive source of political and constitutional arrangement that is in conformity with law and decorum of democratic system; freedom from disturbances, injustice and abuses. Nation-building in Nigeria needs constitutional order that promotes development and aids the conquest of poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy and to furthermore assuring citizens the rule of law notwithstanding of their ethnic root, language, religion and regional leaning. To overcome these, a people oriented constitution that is devoid of corrigendum and contentious issues is one of the fundamental spices for efficient nation-building. In Nigeria, the issue of drafting and amending constitution since independence was done by the military. Apart from the 1963 constitution, all other constitutions in Nigeria were made under military regimes and oversight.¹⁹ After several colonial constitution that never strengthened the statehood and overall development of colonial Nigeria, the military intervention replicated similar model and had in Sunday occasions prepared and handed down constitutions to the civilian governments without input from the Nigeria peoples. The legitimacy of constitution making is to guarantee the benefit of a plebiscite, referendum or national conference. By this way, it assures that it reflects the will and original act of the people in a more encompassing democratic institution which in turn promotes nation-building for national and natural development. No doubt, the inability to achieve a stable and workable constitution has presented Nigeria as weak. In a practical judgment, the energy exerted by the National Assembly over time towards true federalism by amending the 1999 constitution imposed by the military in 1999 has totally failed to safe-guard Nigeria and its people.

iii. The Challenge of Socio-Economic Inequalities:

One critical dimension of nation building is the building of a common citizenship. But the question is, how can common citizenship be achieved when allocation of wealth and resource control are uniquely distributed in Nigeria. To strengthen the bond of nation building in Nigeria, the development of the economy, collective resources and opportunity for all irrespective of region, the development of social welfare and establishment of a baseline of socio-economic right to all component parts of Nigeria to enjoy. It appears deceptive to harp on national integration when Nigerians seemingly live in the pool of unjust distribution of the country's national wealth.

The clamour for resource control and a workable revenue allocation formula are contentious issues that continue to threaten the unity of the Nigerian state. Therefore, the problem of an acceptable revenue allocation formula to a greater extent, promoted the clamour for resource control.²⁰ At the height of agitation for resource control in Nigeria are the minority nationalities

of the Niger Delta Region; otherwise known as the oil producing region or communities which makeup the chief support of Nigeria's revenue component structure.

The principle of derivation should dominate revenue allocation and not down-played on the welfare and development of the region that produces the wealth of the nation because it would go a long way to sustain the peace of not only south-south region that house resource but the entire Nigeria. It is injustice for a region producing oil, the mainstay of Nigeria's economy to have her indigenes lives in abject poverty and penury. Thus, poverty and nation-building are strange bedfellows. It is instructive to note that nations are built by healthy and peaceful citizens on the basis of both equity and efficiency provided by the government.

iv. The Political Parties Challenges:

Formations of political parties since independence have not represented national interest in the real sense of the word and have dangerously effected the development of democracy and nation-building. The state of political parties contentions were worsen during the 1964 federal elections which raised the bar for politicization of regional based political parties formation. This situation was aggravated by the political alliances among the key political parties; the National Council of Nigeria Citizens (N.C.N.C), and the Action Group (A.G) later baptised themselves in to the United Progressives Grand Alliance (U.P.G.A), the Northern People's Congress (N.P.C) and the Nigerian Democratic Party (N.N.D.P) arranged separately the Nigerian National Alliance (N.N.A). Initially, these were political parties formed along regional lines. However, their merger appears not to have elicited the yearnings for national outlook on the basis of national integration. Unfortunately, this trend has seemingly not changed despite the highly glorified extant democratic dispensation since 1999. In a related development, Nigeria operates a multiparty system which is hardly founded on a known political ideology. The ethnic coloration of the parties in Nigeria poses grave challenge to nation-building and national development.

The Challenge of Leadership

A major challenge to effective and positive nation-building in Nigeria which has persisted is leadership.²¹ Leadership is the act of coordinating and motivating individuals and groups in the society to achieve desired goals.²² Hence, leadership is one avenue through which someone exerts its cause of actions on others. Arguably, Nigeria since independence has been plagued by the lack of true national leaders. Thus, leadership in the Nigerian context demands extra skill, political maturity and wisdom, selflessness, and the ability to rise above one's ethnic group and approach problems from a national perspective.²³ Undisputedly, the set back with Nigeria is the reinforcement of leadership failure. It is on good account that an important factor in nation-building is to avoid leaders with the tendency of being power drunk and who live above the constitutional order and the rule of law. Leadership is a collective responsibility and key ingredient of national integration. Paradoxically, Nigeria since independence has continued to struggle of leaders that largely express regional sentiments in politics.

Corruption and poverty challenge

Corruption and poverty are two obvious hindrances to the success of nation-building and democracy in Nigeria. Despite various efforts at curbing the menace of corruption in Nigeria, it has remained a cankerworm to nation building. Government policies aimed at alleviating poverty in the country through sustainable development goals assume discriminatory postures and have been marred ethnic and regional bent. There is high-level corruption in Nigeria no doubt. Leaders **entrusted** with the people's mandate and confidence has continued to disappoint by misappropriating public funds and diverting same personal pockets. These

unbridle corruption ravaging Nigeria governance institutions have contributed in no small measure to the endemic poverty confronting Nigeria and its citizens. The effects of poverty have contributed enormously to the challenges of nation building in Nigeria.

The fight against corruption and poverty in the Nigeria is to sustain economic growth without unnecessary re-creating huge imbalances and injustice to citizens. To do this holistically depends on the sound quality of the germane national institutions. Institutions like the Code of Conduct Bureau (C.C.B), the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC) and Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). These three relevant anti-corruption agencies seem to have one thing in common and that is to fight corruption. The role of the institutions though appears known to fight corruption, they are most times perceived as agents of government in power used to witch-hunt opposition politicians when elections are around the corner. Corruption has been the bane of nation building in Nigeria, however, the anti-corruption institutions have failed to eliminate pitfalls of corruption due to lack of will power to prosecute corrupt officials. The effort at combating crime for nation-building and good democratic governance by the government appears tented with regional bias. Similarly, high profile cases are swept under the carpet on the basis of political sentiments and regional inhibitions.

Another critical area in the war against corruption for achieving egalitarian society is the judicial institutions. The judiciary is of invaluable importance to nation-building and democracy. The primary role of the judiciary is interpretation of the law which is supreme for equity and justice. Unfortunately, the judiciary which expectedly should serve as the last hope of man have not accomplished its task in shaping the nation.

Nigeria Government and Mechanisms to Nation-Building

This paper has just taken a run at given sleek summation in Nigeria nation building in the last twenty-two years of Nigeria democracy since 1999. The focus here is to highlight the efforts at nation-building and promotion of democracy in Nigeria. On this note therefore government of Nigeria has developed the notion of federal character principle as a working mechanism towards nation-building and to strengthen democracy in the country.

The Federal Character Principle

The federal character principle is arguably one of the options towards solving some of the defects and fundamental challenges of Nigeria lopsided and region based federal system.²⁴ The basis for Nigerian federalism since 1999 have followed the line of politics of region building rather than building the nation on the path of national development. Notwithstanding, some of these challenges were neither materialized nor conceived by the crops of nationalists Nigeria had before independence. Osifeso averred that the political boundaries inherited at the independence did not cut deeply across tribal lines.²⁵ Kayode also contends that the political behaviours in the first republic, that the ethnic groups were divided along history, customs, religion or tribal line affinity.²⁶ Since independence however, politics of region building has increasingly polarized the country along ethnic and regional lines while the political class advocate for only their regional groupings rather national unity and development.

In view of the foregoing therefore, federal character ideology is one strategy among others adapted by the government at all levels to seemingly guarantee fairly and even allocation of uncommon resources to all different groups that constitute the entity Nigeria. The essence was to ensure that no component part of the group or sub-group dominates and controls the collective resources at the expense and detriment of other groups. Following the above

recommendation, Dawood opined that both appointments, promotions, sitting of industries, schools and provisions of social amenities, etc are made in a way to allow every group to participate in the system.²⁷ According to Okibe, the central philosophy is to diffuse primordial sentiments, create an enabling environment for peaceful co-existence and engineer the process of greater national integration which is also synonymous with nation-building.²⁸ The 1979 and 1999 constitution clearly oppose politics of region-building which is inimical to the overall interest of Nigeria unity. Therefore in line with the Nigeria constitution and its regulation, the composition of the government of the federation or any affiliate agencies should be conducted to show justice to the all the constituent parts that reflect the federal character of Nigeria to foster its unity. Thus, no group or sections of the country is to be neglected in both power sharing formula and fiscal and revenue responsibility of the country.

Conclusion

The paper has tried to discuss and unravel the negative implications of politics of region building in Nigeria which has in diverse ways affected our collective existence as a nation. To further strengthen the argument for unity in diversity, mechanism such as federal character ideology adopted by government of Nigeria towards nation-building should be fully explored. Nation building process in Nigeria has suffered rollback effect rather than achieve success. Notwithstanding the failures of nation building efforts in Nigeria, the negative effects of region building hurts the country. The emphasis on individual regions negates the principle of unity and promotes ethnic sentiments. The emphasis on state of origin in issues of employment or interstate services fuels region based services among Nigerian citizens. The continued reverberation of ethnic nationalities such Igbo, Hausa, Yoruba, Ijaw or the North- South geopolitical dichotomy is the greatest enemy to the struggle for the unity of Nigeria. Politics in Nigeria should reflect nationality rather than driven by ethnic or regional bias. All Nigerians irrespective of class should be committed to nation-building to ensure that Nigeria move forward in development. All factors such as religion, ethnicity, and regional based politics militating against the national integration policy of government should be jettisoned by all. For effective national leadership to guarantee quality nation building, all Nigerians, leaders and followers alike, must get involved in all efforts at overcoming the challenges of nation building. Equal distribution of power to enhance national unity, collective management of national sources will eliminate regional struggles and minimise the feeling of marginalisation. To deemphasise politics of region building in Nigeria's democratic trajectory is the only roadmap to peace, unity and national integration.

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