

Rising from the ashes: strategies and policies for developments in Nigeria.

ODUSANYA, T.O.

2023

RIISING FROM THE ASHES: STRATEGIES AND POLICIES FOR DEVELOPMENTS IN NIGERIA

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Synopsis

This is a compendium of concepts in alignment with strategies and policies for developments in Nigeria. This collection is divided into two parts, the first explored political challenges and solutions around governance structure; true federalism; rethinking the doctrine of separation of powers; rule of law; and tenure elongation. The second part is focused on the economic challenges and solutions in relation to Nigeria's issue of the diversification of the economy. Finally, and in connection to the exploration of these concepts, this study is concluded with an attached essay on "Vision 2050: Nigeria as a Developed Country".

PART 1: POLITICAL CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

- Governance Structure
- True Federalism
- Rethinking the doctrine of Separation of Powers
- Rule of Law
- Tenure Elongation

PART 2: ECONOMIC CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

- Diversification of the Economy

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

This chapter is focused on the political challenges and solutions of the governance structure in Nigeria. The Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN) is heterogeneous and a true federation as it comprises national governments of all thirty-six (36) states.² The governance structure in Nigeria is the semblance³ of presidential, federal, representative, and or democratic. At the apex of the

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² Federal Government of Nigeria, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_government_of_Nigeria#:~:text=Nigeria%20is%20a%20federal%20republic.power%20exercised%20by%20the%20president accessed 20th February, 2023.

³The word semblance is used deliberately because Nigeria is a notorious country where all is truly not black or whiter neither it is as it seems on paper.

Nigerian political framework is the president who is also the head of a multi-party system, government, and states.⁴ It is categorised into federal; state and local governments. This is further reflected in the constitutional provision of Nigeria.⁵ The Constitution which is the groundnorm of all law in Nigeria stipulates that Nigeria as one indivisible and indissoluble sovereign state is to be known by the name of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; and that it shall be a Federation consisting of States and a Federal Capital Territory.⁶ It further expatiated that the purpose shall be to promote good ethical governance and the overall welfare of Nigerians.⁷ This good governance structure operates a democratic system in which power is accorded to its citizenry to elect their representatives. This supposes that democratic governance is inherently the product of the people.⁸

Conversely, Nigeria has been a popularly acclaimed federation but only in name because of its enormous diversity adjudged too different for one size to fit all. Thus, each state has a democratic local government that addresses and adapts to the grassroots circumstances which meet its peculiarities. Going by the groundnorm, the Nigerian governance structure ought to echo one united and indivisible country. However, the universal truth which is of common knowledge to numerous Nigerians with the exception of a few with selective amnesia is the fact that Nigeria functions epileptically, albeit, not functioning appropriately in line with international standard benchmark for good governance structure.⁹ Arguably, there are certain stereotypes internally, interstates, and externally or accidental identities (religion, tribe/ethnicity), and until there is a common ground where everyone feels a deep sense of belonging, the Nigerian governance structure will continue to lurk in murky waters. Nigeria can be likened to a country in unending darkness, with conflicts between dominant striving perpetually without futility of quality and vibrant leaders to efficiently co-ordinate its affairs judiciously.¹⁰

This chapter concludes with the assertion that the solution is from within, and this will only commence when we become solidly united and truly one. Nigerians must begin to see diversity as

⁴ Federal Government of Nigeria, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_government_of_Nigeria#:~:text=Nigeria%20is%20a%20federal%20republic.power%20exercised%20by%20the%20president accessed 20th February, 2023.

⁵ The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, CFRN (1999) Third Alteration Act, as amended.

⁶ The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 third Alteration Act, as amended, section 2.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ Babalola Onapajo, (2019). New clamour for “restructuring” in Nigeria: elite politics, contradictions, and good governance. *African Studies Quarterly*. Volume 18, Issue 4, pages 41-56.

¹⁰ Cyril Ugwuoke, Benjamin Okorie Ajah, Chukwuemeka Dominic Onyejebu, (2020). Developing patterns of violent crimes in Nigerian democratic transitions, *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, Volume 53, 2020, 101457, ISSN 1359-1789, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.avb.2020.101457> accessed 25th February 2023.

a strength and not a weakness and must therefore as a nation pay more attention to integration and foster unity. Nigeria comprises different people and cultures; hence, a real amalgamation is essential as opposed to divide and rule. This is the ability to accept, understand and acknowledge that Nigerians are one. This should not only be limited to during football matches or in a near-death hospital situation. With a little more tolerance, love, and understanding, a united Nigeria would no longer be a utopian dream but a reality in itself.

The quest for the perfect governance structure that will propel rapid advancement in Nigeria seems mythical as this search remains a continuous venture. Flowing from the previous segment on governance structure above, Nigeria's governance structure cannot be addressed exhaustively without considering the essential components that make up structural governance. Accordingly, Nigeria can only be accurately depicted as a country with impeccable political structure and good governance if the following indices are accurately reflected, adequately managed, and in perfect alignment. These indices include but are not limited to true, federalism, the doctrine of separation of powers, the rule of law, and the avoidance of unreasonable tenure elongation. These crucial elements would now be taken in turn.

TRUE FEDERALISM

According to the purview of the Nigerian Constitution to consolidate unity, it could be logically inferred that Nigerians are willing, able, and have approved to live indissolubly and harmoniously as one indivisible and united Nigeria. Legally, the preamble clearly stipulates further that the citizenry of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, with firm and solemn resolution agree to co-exist amicably.¹¹ In the words of Carl Friedrich, (1968), a prominent federalism theorist, federalism is an essential process of 'standing in brotherhood' to ignite consensus, and multiplicity along with paramount and equal attention to all stakeholders.¹²

However, in converse to the legal and constitutional proclamations above, the practicality of federalism in Nigeria is questionable as it is not in tandem with the fundamental principle of actual federalism. Consequently, Nigeria has been labeled as a federation with no federalism.¹³ From the

¹¹ Preamble to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (CFRN).

¹² Odewale, Ayotunde David, Banji Marcellinus Adepoju, and Kehinde Rebecca Kareem. (2023). Nigerian Federalism: The Quest for Restructuring, *Jurnal Studi Pemerintahan*, Volume 14, Issue 1, page 18.

¹³ Babalola, Dele. (2019). Nigeria: A Federation in Search of 'True Federalism.' In: *The Political Economy of Federalism in Nigeria. Federalism and Internal Conflicts*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-05493-9_6 accessed 4th March 2023.

economic stance, in an ideal country, true federalism must stimulate equity as well as equality. Fiscal federalism is such that is *inter alia*, reflective of equal distribution of wealth and resources without the bourgeoisie's vis-a-vis proletariat class manipulation.¹⁴ For example, the Niger Delta's crude oil contribution to the Nigerian economy is outstanding. Yet, they remain marginalized as a result of non-existent true federalism¹⁵ Politically, for true federalism to be realized, there must be independence in governance meaning the central government need not be more powerful than the state government and vice versa. More so, in an ideal federal status, there is a clear interrelationship yet strict autonomy between each tier of government.¹⁶

Multi-ethnicity is not the issue. This is because diversity is a blessing and not a curse. Moreover, every state, region, and part of Nigeria has one thing or the other to offer. Nigeria must as One, truly indivisible and United entity look beyond basic issues and focus on the solutions collaboratively and cooperatively.¹⁷ This is further essential because Nigerian issues are not even diversity centered. Hence, must tribe and religion amongst other issues continue to distract growth?

With due consideration to Nigeria being a multi-ethnic society, federalism is most suitable to foster genuine unity and diversity.¹⁸ Nevertheless, from the legal, economic, and political perspectives elucidated above, if Nigeria practices federalism at all in the true sense of the word, then it is arguably a shambolic type of federalism.¹⁹ This is arguably the basis of the argument that dismembering Nigeria would wither mar or eventually make Nigeria.²⁰

Nigeria is a melting pot of culture, making her even more complex yet distinct. Diversity should be a win and a source of strength, not a weakness. Diversity should not sever Nigerians. Confidence and trust in Nigeria by putting the country first not ethnic group. That is one Nigeria, not state, tribe, or religion. Nigerians must deliberately become good examples too in rekindling hope in Nigeria, lighting up the fire and letting it burn for all to see. Diversity goes beyond ethnicity

¹⁴ Temitope Omotola Odusanya (2020). Is True Federalism A Panacea for Rapid Growth in Nigeria? SSRN https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3851374 accessed 6th of March 2023; Bello Matthew and Mackson Maina (2023). Revenue Generation, Fiscal Federalism, and the National Question in Nigeria. KIU Journal of Humanities, Kampala International University ISSN: 2415-0843, Volume 7, Issue 4, pages 33-46.

¹⁵ Mark Tekena Gasper, (2021). "Niger Delta conflict and the cry for restructuring and true federalism in Nigeria: A study of Akpos Adesi's Agadagba Warriors." Literature Compass, Volume 18, Issue 1, page 126.

¹⁶ Temitope Omotola Odusanya (2020). Is True Federalism A Panacea for Rapid Growth in Nigeria? SSRN. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3851374 accessed 6th of March 2023.

¹⁷ *Ibid*.

¹⁸ Onah Celestine Chijioko, Ikechukwu Asadu, and Benjamin Amujiri. (2022). Dynamics of the politico-administrative conflicts of resource control in Nigeria: Exploring the oil politics of who gets what, when, and how. Natural Resources Forum, Volume 46. Number 2, page 14.

¹⁹ Temitope Omotola Odusanya (2020). Is True Federalism A Panacea for Rapid Growth in Nigeria? SSRN. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3851374 accessed 6th of March 2023.

²⁰ *Ibid*

and religion. It is not by “*it is my turn*” Rather, it is about everyone! Quality service could only be achieved through a patriotic and professionally qualified team that is capable of giving the state a formidable front to face the challenges of development.²¹ Nigerian differences are not limited to ethnicity and religion; they are bigotry and wickedness. There must be a deliberate effort to be humane and open-minded.

A Nigeria where there is true Federalism, and the devolution of political power is present. Everyone admires the powerful seat of the president, however, not everyone can become President! The governance structure in Nigeria is closer to unitary as opposed to a federal republic being that power is centralised in the Federal Government. Moreso, the state policing debates are indicative of the need to restructure.

This chapter concludes that with oneness and undivided federalism, there will be real independence in Nigeria’s public institutions.²² Furthermore, for functional federalism to become a reality, ethnoreligious clashes and violence inherently deepened in tribalism must first be eradicated.²³ In restructuring Nigeria’s federal system of governance and closing the deep lacuna that impends her sovereignty, corruption, constitutional reviews, economic deficit, and leadership crises must fundamentally be examined at grassroots levels.²⁴

The fruition of classless yet patriotic and political citizens who are detribalized and selfless is a requirement for progressive good governance. For the realization of true federalism, the populace must set aside differences, be considerate, and unite for a common purpose and vision of a better and advanced Nigeria. Nigerians must become proactive, and actively involved in their affairs, eradicate the laid-back approach, truly desire federalism, and see Nigeria as one; appreciate the essence of unity, diversity, and demand measurable evolution. Finally, restructuring Nigeria’s governance structure to accommodate true federalism is a matter of urgency for Nigeria to attain its full potential.

²¹ Ahmadu Adamu Mu’azu. My Tenure Report, Bauchi State, Nigeria, 1999-2007, Hermitage Publishing.

²² The Challenges of Democratic Governance in Nigeria. Available from: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/343679086> THE CHALLENGES OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIA accessed 3rd March, 2023.

²³ Babalola, Dele. (2019). Nigeria: A Federation in Search of ‘True Federalism.’ In: The Political Economy of Federalism in Nigeria. Federalism and Internal Conflicts. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-05493-9_6 accessed 4th March 2023.

²⁴ Odewale, Ayotunde David, Banji Marcellinus Adepoju, and Kehinde Rebecca Kareem. (2023). Nigerian Federalism: The Quest for Restructuring, *Jurnal Studi Pemerintahan*, Volume 14, Issue 1, page 18.

RETHINKING THE DOCTRINE OF SEPARATION OF POWERS

Nigeria is stuck in a box unable to appropriately disperse or diffuse concentrated powers. Thus, suppose that Nigerians think that they have the doctrine of separation of powers right in Nigeria, then, they must think, inspect and re-think again!

Separation of power as segmented in the Constitution fragments power in a manner that curbs tyranny or general abuse of power.²⁵ Constitutionally, it is sought after to ensure the government of laws as opposed to that of men. There are three distinct branches of the federal governance structure in Nigeria namely the legislative, executive, and judiciary.²⁶ The three tiers of government discharge their constitutional duties autonomously and serve amongst each other as mutual monitors and watchdogs. There shall be no trespass of powers for a properly structured governance and to advance economically and nationally.²⁷ To ensure that government works properly, they must work distinctly yet cooperatively, there should be a clear separation and not a fusion/hybrid of powers.²⁸ Logically, the intention of the laws created by the legislature is interpreted by the judiciary. It could be adduced that laws will become a mess with conflicts of interest and purely discretionary stances if the same arm that makes the law is not detached from interpreting the same law.²⁹

Separation of powers. “SOP” as it is popularly called precludes arbitrary powers. The doctrine of separation of power as enshrined in the Constitution protects the independence of the judiciary.³⁰ It is an ethical principle and a germane element of good governance that ensures that power is neither discretionary nor consolidated, breeds transparency, and adds excellent value systemically. As Mahatma Gandhi aptly said, politics without ethics and good conscience is the social sin of humankind. It is a well-known fact that “power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely,” thus, powers must be adequately divided. In addition, by virtue of ethics and the tenet of good governance, powers should neither be concentrated at a level nor muddled up.³¹ Humans are

²⁵ Sections 4, 5 and 6 of the

²⁶ The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 third Alteration Act, as amended, section 2 Part II, Sections 4, 5 and 6 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 third Alteration Act, as amended.

²⁷ Ali Abubakar, (2019). The Executive, Legislature, and the Judiciary: Toward Democratic Governance in Nigeria Since 1914. *Journal of Economic Information*, Volume 6, Issue 1, pages 43-48.

²⁸ Fidelis Uwakwe, (2019). Separation of powers: Panacea for good governance in Nigeria, *Nnamdi Azikiwe University Journal of International Law, and Jurisprudence*, African Journal Online (AJOL), Volume 10, Number 1, pages 140-150.

²⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁰ Section 4 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, CFRN, (1999). Third Alteration Act (as amended).

³¹ Ali Abubakar, (2019). The Executive, Legislature, and the Judiciary: Toward Democratic Governance in Nigeria Since 1914. *Journal of Economic Information*, Volume 6, Issue 1, pages 43-48.

generally “*Olivia twists*” in nature always wanting more and susceptible to abusing it, they are majorly insatiable and because power can intoxicate, there must be a limit to its scope or terrain.

The doctrine of separation of power can be traced as far back as 1748 when it was first propounded by the French enlightenment author, Baron de Montesquieu, in his book *Spirit of Laws*. He is also popularized as the father of SOP which is now formulated in several constitutions worldwide. The mechanism called separation of powers is to prevent power tussle or fiasco which is unhealthy for a democratic governance. Thus, the doctrine of separation of power is indispensable in stimulating liberty and a virile governance atmosphere.³² In the absence of separation of powers, oppression of laws for selfish ends and superfluous political volatility will manifest.³³ The principle of separation of power is devoid of usurpation of powers as it accommodates freedom of liberties, the common good, and public interest.³⁴ However, it seems apparent that water-tight separation of power is not logically feasible as there is a need for mutual checkmate, collaboration, and working cooperatively.

For a ripened fruit of governance to become evident, separation of power is essential as it is also a fundament and oil that lubricates the engine of good and democratic governance. SOP is instrumental in enhancing checks and balances to exterminate any potential threat of an abuse of power.³⁵ Exclusively, the legislature is vested with law-making powers; the executive is bestowed with the power to enforce laws; while the judiciary is conferred with powers to interpret the law. Accordingly, each arm of government must strictly align with its constitutionally assigned powers as doing anything beyond that would be *ultra vires*, null and void to the extent of its inconsistencies, and amount to the encroachment of powers.³⁶

This fundamental doctrine is structural as it wards off a broad spectrum of ills in governance such as rapacious laws, judgments, and self-service attitudes.³⁷ The Nigerian political problems of answerability, insincerity, irresponsibility, and unevenness, amongst others, remain a debacle for the efficiency of separation of powers amid the three branches of government. The doctrine of

³² Francisca Anyim-Ben, Samuel Okereke, Ngozi Chijioko, (2017). The Doctrine of Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances in the Nigerian Executive-Legislative Relationship, *Nnamdi Azikiwe Journal of Philosophy*, Volume 9, Number 1, pages 77-84.

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ Abdulyakeen Abdulrasheed, (2021). An Appraisal of Charles De Montesquieu Theory of Separation of Power within the Prisms of Power Relations among Structures of Government in Nigeria’s Presidential System: The Dilemma and Critical Issues, *FUDMA Journal of Management Sciences* Volume 3 Issue 2, page 18.

separation of power in Nigeria looks so good but only on paper as the Constitution is not even accorded due reverence.³⁸ It is such an aberration that the democratic principles of separation of power is not intimately and intricately established in Nigeria despite the constitutional provisions.³⁹ The legislature, executive, and judiciary are meddlesome interlopers and never strictly exercise powers only within their scope of influence. In Nigeria's polity, invasion of power, which is a flagrant violation and disregard of laws, especially the grundnorm, the Constitution, is the order of the day. The doctrine of separation of power is therefore reckless and disorderly as disobedience of judicial proceedings makes the constitution appears as a witticism.

This chapter recommends that to achieve separation of power in the most real form, Nigerians must wake up! Take less and do more. The police must be reformed, securities must be strengthened, and the independence of the judiciary must be protected. The ultimate need to focus on grassroots politics, and the local governments in order to broaden the scope and better understand and address the intrusion of powers. To revive Nigerian institutions, encroachment of powers and corrupt tendencies must be seized in the bud. Moreover, self-introspection is an essential requirement to put self-aggrandizement at bay. All hands must be on deck in pressing for answerability, by being reasonable, mature, politically educated, and vigilant.

THE RULE OF LAW

At the core of impartiality and transparency is the rule of law meaning be you so high, the law remains above you!

The rule of law just like its twin brother separation of power is also germane as it is a vital guiding principle of good governance and democratic regime, which fortifies against despotism. Without which the inevitable consequences are anarchy, disorderliness, brutishness, instability, sets motion of chaos, civil disobedience, scorned administration, unsafe environment, unabashed absolutism, and undemocratic governance as a whole which would thrive and take precedence.⁴⁰ The rule of law connotes common citizenship whereby every Nigerian no matter which part of the country they come from, how they look, or what language they speak should live anywhere in the country

³⁸ B. O. Nwabueze, (2011). *Current Issues and problems in the working of constitutional Democracy in Nigeria* Gold Press Ltd. Ibadan, page 67.

³⁹ *Ibid.*

⁴⁰ Taiwo, Olwole. (2021). The Sanctity of Rule of Law, National Security and Personal Liberty in Nigeria. *KIU Interdisciplinary Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 2(1), 218-239.

without fear of prejudice, discrimination, or persecution. Every person would then be judged by what they bring to the table and not the religion or tribe they belong to.⁴¹

Democracy without the rule of law is a demonstration of the craze!

The rule of law is sacrosanct. It signals the ideal Nigeria in which every citizen is treated equally; A Nigeria that respects meritocracy and diversity; A Nigeria that practices true federalism; and A Nigeria that values research and development as central to creating business and employment opportunities.⁴²

The rule of law is an artifact and can, for instance, be traced back to the elementary social studies era. It has become apparent as rightly captured by Abraham Lincoln, that the rule of law is a pillar, the cornerstone of good and stable democratic governance whereby the government and the governed are subjected to the due process of the law, without ruins.⁴³ In alignment with A.V. Dicey's exposition, it further enthrones the fact that everyone must 'succumb' to the ordinary laws of the land as opposed to the whimsicality of certain politically powerful individuals.⁴⁴

By virtue of the supremacy of the Constitution which stipulates that the Constitution is the supreme law in the land and shall have binding force on all authorities and persons throughout the Federal Republic of Nigeria.⁴⁵ Further on, in the subsections emphasis is made on the rule of law and on the basis of the supremacy of this grundnorm. Thus, any other inconsistent law that goes against the laid down provisions of the Constitution is *ultra vires* (beyond powers) and shall therefore be invalid to the extent of its inconsistencies.⁴⁶ Accordingly, the lack of good governance structure and the due process of law is a mockery of the Nigerian grundnorm, the constitution.

Where exactly does the rule of law commence? In a country where the constitution is sidelined, where leaders are not answerable to the populace; where there is a blatant disregard for responsibility; a country where 'snakes' swallow ridiculously huge millions of naira; a country where there is a lack of faith in the government; where the poor man has little to no rights whatsoever; where the judiciary is truly not independent; where injustice prevails, and

⁴¹ *Ibid*

⁴² Ojo-Solomon, R. (2022). Quality Control and Economic Development: The Mandate of Standards Organization of Nigeria. *Law and Social Justice Review*, Volume 3, Issue 1, pages 10-21.

⁴³ Taiwo, Oluwole. (2021). The Sanctity of Rule of Law, National Security and Personal Liberty in Nigeria. *KIU Interdisciplinary Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 2(1), 218-239.

⁴⁴ *Ibid*.

⁴⁵ Section 1 sub sections (1)- (3) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria CFRN (1999) Third Alteration Act as amended.

⁴⁶ *Ibid* sub section 3.

favourable judicial pronouncements has price tags! Etc. Can it then be said that such a country has any iota of the rule of law country? Is not the rule of law seriously imperiled in such a country? Again, where precisely is the rule of law in such a country?

Undoubtedly, the rule of law is unambiguously enshrined in the groundnorm of all laws in Nigeria. Nevertheless, it remains surreal that the Constitution provisions are not being upheld accordingly. It is therefore against this backdrop that numerous instances such as unfair trials, suppression of free speech, unjustifiably arrests, undue domination of minorities, and executive lawlessness continue to be the order of the day. Nigerian leaders have turned the rule of law into a shambolic myth as opposed to an actual reality despite swearing to affirm the said rule of law.⁴⁷

An administration starved of the rule of law is no rule whatsoever.

The Court of Appeal held that the rule of law is divine and not the rule of force, it presupposes that men should be ruled by laws and not might.⁴⁸ Moreover, as the late Justice Oputa (1986) aptly stated, the judiciary is an obligatory agent of the rule of law, hence, the state is subjected to the laid down rules of the courts of law. Without this subjection, there will be a corrosion of democracy.⁴⁹ Cicero (1990) during the heydays asserted that humans are slaves to the law in order that they may attain freedom in the end.⁵⁰

The global indicator of the rule of law lies in equality of enforcement, consistency with international human rights standards, and the confidence of the people in governance and in how they abide by societal rules.⁵¹ The rule of law cautions behavior within the political sphere whilst placing responsiveness, accountability, and the wishes of the citizenry before representative leaders.⁵² As a matter of national security, the rule of law is crucial to the maintenance and survival of a nation. This entails good governance, security, absence of threats and violence, fortification against poverty and unfulfilled aspirations, freedom from intimidation, unjustifiable arrests, and protection of valuables, environment, interests, assets, lives, and properties.⁵³ The rule of law

⁴⁷ Elijah Okon John, (2011). The Rule of Law in Nigeria: Myth or Reality? Canadian Center of Science and Education, 4 Journal of Politics and Law, Volume 4, Number 1, page 211.

⁴⁸ *Nwadijuebowe v Nwawo & Ors.* (2004 6NWLR pt 869 439)

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

⁵¹ Yunusa, Umaru (2020). Evaluating Ethnic and Resource Conflicts in Nigeria and Challenges for National Security and Democratic Governance. Journal of the Nigerian Council of Educational Psychologists, Volume 12, Issue 1, page 30.

⁵² *Ibid.*

⁵³ Yunusa, Umaru (2020). Evaluating Ethnic and Resource Conflicts in Nigeria and Challenges for National Security and Democratic Governance. Journal of the Nigerian Council of Educational Psychologists, Volume 12, Issue 1, page 30.

should demonstrate good governance, transparency, participatory approaches to the maximum, equitable allocation of resources; empathy detonates tension, ensures inclusiveness, encourages dialogues, stakeholders' engagement, joint consultations, and the collaborative management of ethnic conflicts.⁵⁴

Ideally, equality before the law ought to be non-negotiable in a standard political bureaucracy that credits the rule of law. An ideal system of governance that practices the rule of law prioritizes meritocracy over nepotism. This includes but is not limited to equal access to basic amenities by all and to the exclusion of none. Accordingly, everyone must be alike and in unison because the law is blind. The twin Latin maxims anchoring natural justice are “*audi alteram partem and nemo judex in causa sua.*” A judge must be an unbiased umpire and must never judge for his or her own cause.

Although the rule of law is lethargic, it nonetheless acknowledges human rights *ipso de facto*, which is a testimonial and bedrock of democratic governance. It is far too costly and unjustifiable to abide in a society without the rule of law. Thus, the sanctity of the rule of law must be cherished even when it is not convenient, as it triumphs capriciousness, prejudice, or arbitrariness.⁵⁵

This chapter concludes that the rule of law is strongly flawed in Nigeria, and it recommends that the rule of law and independence of the judiciary must be paramount. As a matter of effective governance, there is an urgent need for restructuring, revival, and rebirth of good governance in Nigeria. The law in Nigeria is based on the rule of law yet, it suffers critical fluctuations. To make the acclaimed supposition a reality, there is the need for strong sensitization, prayers, and mind reorientation to influence a paradigm shift away from the *status quo* and to attain ethical politics.

TENURE ELONGATION

The ‘we die there’ mentality is undemocratic, with poor leadership ideology and weak succession strategy, which transpires when leaders are too power absorbed that they can no longer delineate themselves beyond their political seats, thus, they elongate in perpetuity.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵⁵ Taiwo, Olwole. (2021). The Sanctity of Rule of Law, National Security and Personal Liberty in Nigeria. *KIU Interdisciplinary Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 2(1), 218-239.

From a microscopic glance at Nigeria's political domain, it could be adduced that power has been shaped by tenure elongation and continuous rotation by a notable circle known as the elites.⁵⁶ Tenure elongation has been an endless loop in the Nigerian polity. Since 1999, when Nigeria welcomed democracy, with a quarterly rotation and transition in political office, there has been some hullabaloo and apparent reluctance surrounding peaceful and smooth concession of power.⁵⁷

Can we expect democracy to be consolidated where the political elites continue to elongate tenures and circulate and rotate themselves on political seats? The simple and rational answer is No! This can be likened to the biblical illustration of new wine in old bottles, democracy being the new wine cannot be strengthened if the old bottles, which are the elites do not desist from circulating themselves.

Tenure elongation and rotation of elites dampen the rationale behind democratic governance. A perfect or near-perfect democracy demands better and more tenured representation. For example, in Nigeria so far, Olusegun Obasanjo of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) was once Military president in 1976 and served as a civilian president in 1999. Also, the case of Muhammadu Buhari of The All-Progressives Congress (APC) the current Nigerian President who was once a military president in 1984 and presently rounding up his second term and his eighth year as President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. More recently, is that of *emi lokan*, the current president-elect of Nigeria, Bola Ahmed Tinubu who was once the Governor of Lagos State, for two terms, eight years. These depict how ready elites are willing to ensure that they remain in power by rotating the same group of politicians since independence.⁵⁸ It also lay emphasis on the circulation of elites, the rule by the minority, and the domination of the political system by elites.⁵⁹

These prominent closely knitted elites mischievously receive societal control, and hold power tenaciously to manipulate and misuse political powers for selfish gains.⁶⁰ This is further perpetrated through corrupt practices, patrimonialism, militarism, godfatherism, rigging, ethnicity,

⁵⁶ The Challenges of Democratic Governance in Nigeria. Available from: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/343679086> THE CHALLENGES OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIA accessed 3rd March, 2023.

⁵⁷ Okeke, R. C. (2015). Democratic Consolidation in Nigeria: Progress and Challenges. *Arabian Journal of Business and Management Review* (OMAN Chapter) Volume 5, Issue 5, pages 21-34.

⁵⁸ Okeke, R. C. (2014). Anatomy of the Nigerian Elite: Interrogating A Blind Elite Model of the Elite Theory (Doctoral dissertation). Available from *European Scientific Journal*, Volume 10, Issue 4, pages 320-336.

⁵⁹ Aliyu, M. K. (2016). Peoples Democratic Party in the Fourth Republic of Nigeria: Nature, Structure, and Ideology. SAGE, 1-11. DOI: 10.1177/2158244016651910. Retrieved from sgo.sagepub.com.

⁶⁰ Bariledum, K. (2013). Political Elites and the Challenges of National Development: The Nigeria Experience. *European Scientific Journal*, Volume 9, Issue 1, page 31.

and delay assessments from election tribunals.⁶¹ Political theorists such as Vilfredo Pareto and Karl Marx and Gaetano Mosca, observed that political elites retreat and isolate themselves from society in order to replicate themselves from within (Mosca, 1939).

Tenure elongation undermines democratic consolidation in Nigeria's governance structural processes and breeds stomach or pocket infrastructure amongst other things.⁶² Pareto considers that modern democracy is merely elite domination as 'circulated elites' and subsequent elites become soft and ineffective due to the power privileges experienced over time.⁶³ Arguably, it is also on the basis of tenure elongation that Roberto Michels contended that democracy is a fraud as governments are oligarchical, with power by a few.

According to Professor Chinua Achebe, (1983) "turning and turning in the widening gyre, the falcon cannot hear the falconer; things fall apart; the center cannot hold". Democracy is a system of government that fosters meaningful and extensive competition among individuals and groups, especially political parties for political offices at regular intervals and excluding the use of force.⁶⁴ Tenure elongation is indicative of a biased and undemocratic selection.⁶⁵ This is because, it portrays free, fair, open, non-violent, and democratic elections as mere democratic crusades without any internal or practical effect whatsoever.⁶⁶

Tenure elongation in Nigerian politics is a genuine issue that has been taken facetiously with a pinch of salt. Hence, there is a need for a change in our minds and value orientations as these will take a revolution in order to effect a proper and much-needed change. There is also the urgent need for an adequate application of the tenets of the rule of law, which is a deep democratic principle and a resourceful foundation for good governance. The election management body must be truly independent in terms of finance and administration and should sanction any erring members found to have been involved in election malpractice. Furthermore, security operatives involved in the election must be up and doing. Electoral offenders should be prosecuted to serve as a deterrent to

⁶¹ Kwasau, M. A. (2013). The Challenges of Democratic Consolidation in Nigeria's Fourth Republic. *European Scientific Journal*, Volume 9, Issue 8, pages 181-192. ISSN: 1857-7431

⁶² Ibietan, J. I. & Ajayi, O. O. (2015). The Governing Elite and Democratic Consolidation in Nigeria: An Appraisal of the Fourth Republic. *ORIC Publications Journal of Human and Social Science Research*, Volume 6, Issue 1, 14-21. ISSN 2331-4974. Retrieved from www.oricpub.com.

⁶³ Yagboyaju, D. A. (2013). Democratic Consolidation, Fiscal Responsibility and National Development: An Appraisal of the Fourth Republic. *African Journal of Political Science and International Relations*, Volume 7, Issue 2, pages 100-106.

⁶⁴ *Ibid*

⁶⁵ Chukwuka, E., Ugwu, E., & Obasi, C. J. (2013). Godfatherism in Nigeria's Politics: A Study of Obasanjo's Civilian Administration (1999-2007). *International Journal of Research in Arts and Social Sciences*, Volume 5, pages 130-147.

⁶⁶ Adeosun, A. B. (2014). Democracy and Democratic Consolidation in Nigerian Fourth Republic: Issues and Challenges. *IOSR-JHSS Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, Volume 19, Issue 10, pages 5-10. ISSN: 2279-0845. www.iosrjournals.org

others. It is hoped that this study serves as a road map for government in the sense that they reexamine electoral processes, and elite recruitment and enhance democratic consolidation in Nigeria. The study concludes on the note that electoral processes must be revitalized, re-affirmed, and strengthened.

DIVERSIFICATION OF THE ECONOMY

Mono-economy is never the way forward. There is a positive correlation between economic prosperity and diversification. A country that is growth-oriented and seriously desires to break away from the shackles of underdevelopment must continuously diversify!

Nigeria is uniquely diversified with a multiethnic variety of people, mineral resources, and climate and is rich in diverse cultures.⁶⁷ Therefore, it is only right and logical that her economy is also diversified to prevent over-dependence on the mono-economy which is inadvertently catastrophic. Economic diversification is anchored on human capital development as it does not exist on nothingness. It is a process of engaging Nigeria to channel the maximization of her resources.⁶⁸

Simply put, economic diversification is a country's approach to ensuring long-term sustainability. Economic diversification is an avalanche or avenue for creating new economic growth.⁶⁹ It simultaneously increases the budget of the country through multifarious income sources and exported products of quality outputs with the aim of advancing financial returns.⁷⁰ Nothing buries a country alive faster than having a mono-economy without a multiplier effect.

Zainab Usman (2022) defines Economic Diversification as an expansion of the sources of production, employment, trade, revenues, and expenditures in an economy.⁷¹ Nigeria is Africa's largest economy with the most population but appalling also with the largest concentration of poverty.⁷² Despite that Aliko Dangote is Africa's richest man and Nigeria's Nollywood is the third (3rd) largest after Hollywood and Bollywood. Nigeria is one of the largest oil producers, sadly, the

⁶⁷Onodugo Ifeanyi Chris, Benjamin A. Amujiri, Nwuba, Bethram Ndibe, (2015). Diversification of the economy: A panacea for Nigerian economic development, International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Development Volume: two, Issue: 5, 477-483.

⁶⁸Suberu O. J., Ajala O. A., Akande M. O., Olure-Bank Adeyinka (2015). Diversification of the Nigerian Economy towards a Sustainable Growth and Economic Development, International Journal of Economics, Finance and Management Sciences, Volume 3, Issue 2, 107-114.

⁶⁹Udeh Shedrack Chijioke, Onuoha, Daniel Anaeluwa, and Nwokorobia Chinedu. (2021). Diversification of Nigeria's Economy: Option for Sustainable Growth, International Journal of Development and Management Review (INJODEMAR) Volume 16, Number 1, pages 219-236.

⁷⁰Adams Oluwadamilola Kemi, (2016). Diversification of Nigeria Economy through Agricultural Production, IOSR Journal of Economics and Finance (IOSR-JEF) e-ISSN: 2321-5933, p-ISSN: 2321-5925. Volume 7, Issue 6, pages 104-107.

⁷¹Usman, Zainab, (2022). *Economic Diversification in Nigeria: The Politics of Building a Post-Oil Economy*. ISBN 9781786993977, 9781786993960, 9781786993977, Bloomsbury Publishing, London, Zed Books, 312 pages.

⁷²*Ibid.*

oil production has been stagnant. There seems to be some unwelcome news always stemming from Nigeria especially rooted in the fact that it has not delivered shared prosperity to the vast majority. Yet undeveloped with ‘the oil curse’ that oil wealth singularly causes economic stagnation, corruption, bad governance, and conflict.⁷³ It could be logically inferred that neopatrimonialism culture, a fusion of traditional and modern institutions results in distorted governance institutions that are unable to facilitate economic transformation.

Ever since Nigeria discovered oil in the 1950s, her economy has been heavily dependent on it. Consequently, her pivotal challenge has been diversifying the economy beyond this oil.⁷⁴ The latest oil price crash as well as the global COVID-19 pandemic have further heightened the essence and need to foster the diversification the economy.⁷⁵ It is now long overdue for Nigeria to diversify the economy as global oil demand is highly uncertain which places the country at crossroads.⁷⁶ A prominent manner of forcing through successful economic diversification and guaranteeing stable growth in Nigeria is through intensive and extensive trade and or domestic diversification.⁷⁷ Economic diversification is perceived to lessen vulnerability, adverse peripheral shocks, unnecessary exposure, and macroeconomic instability.⁷⁸

The pursuit of economic development dates back to the 1960s when attention was placed on transportation, informal albeit local activities, energy, agriculture, and sponsoring indigenous products such as cocoa, crops, palm oil, stock fish, and rubber through quality exportation.⁷⁹ Conversely, the outpouring boom in the oil sector in the 1970s propelled a massive exodus of other forms of industrialization.⁸⁰ The realization of oil in commercial quantity gave agricultural economic diversification a serious blow. A long time ago, in the era of pre- and post-independence, there appears to be relative self-sufficiency and diversification of the Nigerian economy through the exportation of various local produces and agricultural goods in general. This was because

⁷³ *Ibid.*

⁷⁴ Usman, Zainab, (2022). *Economic Diversification in Nigeria: The Politics of Building a Post-Oil Economy*. ISBN 9781786993977, 9781786993960, 9781786993977, Bloomsbury Publishing, London, Zed Books, 312 pages.

⁷⁵ Jiaxiong Yao (AFR) and Yang Liu (ITD), International Monetary Fund.

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷⁷ Lukman Oyelami and Philip Alege, (2018). Macroeconomic Implications of Trade Diversification in Nigeria, CBN Journal of Applied Statistics Volume 9 Number 1, pages 23-45.

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*

⁷⁹ Adams Oluwadamilola Kemi, (2016). Diversification of Nigeria Economy through Agricultural Production, IOSR Journal of Economics and Finance (IOSR-JEF) e-ISSN: 2321-5933, p-ISSN: 2321-5925. Volume 7, Issue 6, pages 104-107

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*

diverse districts of the country had specific and focused areas of specialisation.⁸¹ For example, the West had cocoa; the North had groundnut, whilst the East had palm oil.⁸²

On the other side, as a result of the strident shift and focus on oil money, (which is now a ‘bad market’) could only employ a restricted number of professionals. Thus, the adverse effect was that as people chased oil money and neglected the agrarian economy, agriculture which was also a major means of employment opportunities and a prominent agent of poverty eradication also dwindled.⁸³ There was a major movement and relocation from rural communities to cities as the populace also shifted their concentration into making quick money through white-collar jobs.⁸⁴

As Thomas Hobbes duly noted, humans are selfish, self-centered, and brutish as everyone wants to live large just for today. However, with that mentality, crashing is inevitable. To live well and sustainably, it is imperative to think beyond living well just for the present, thus, economic diversification is of paramount importance. Diversification is a multi-sector pecuniary growth strategy likened to having multiple sources of income by investing in a range of assets. It demands active involvement in a wide range of sectors. Beyond multi-domains, it is more than the oil curse, it includes diversifying substance diversity, agriculture, and much more.⁸⁵

Since time immemorial, Nigeria has been pictured as a country with a ‘blessed curse’ of oil wealth.⁸⁶ One is left to wonder why the negative news continues to thrive. Imagine having consistent and solution-oriented economic diversification that is credible across diverse sources. Nigeria’s spending pressures are a potentially limiting factor and besides, efficacious evolution to a more diversified economy is often forcefully propelled or necessitated by crises. With the ‘sporadic bail-out’ sudden shift and craving towards an agrarian economy, it must be carefully threaded to avoid being overwhelmed. There must be no iota of complacency, by enabling a consistent and well-structured management process in place. Quality support, stakeholder collaboration, incentives, and an enabling and functional environment with basic amenities such

⁸¹Lukman Oyelami and Philip Alege, (2018). Macroeconomic Implications of Trade Diversification in Nigeria, CBN Journal of Applied Statistics Volume 9 Number 1, pages 23-45.

⁸² *Ibid.*

⁸³ Onodugo Ifeanyi Chris, Benjamin A. Amujiri, Nwuba, Bethram Ndibe, (2015). Diversification of the economy: A panacea for Nigerian economic development, International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Development Volume: 2, Issue: 5, 477-483.

⁸⁴ Adams Oluwadamilola Kemi, (2016). Diversification of Nigeria Economy through Agricultural Production, IOSR Journal of Economics and Finance (IOSR-JEF) e-ISSN: 2321-5933, p-ISSN: 2321-5925. Volume 7, Issue 6, pages 104-107

⁸⁵ Udeh Shedrack Chijioko, Onuoha, Daniel Anaeluwa, and Nwokorobia Chinedu. (2021). Diversification of Nigeria’s Economy: Option for Sustainable Growth, International Journal of Development and Management Review (INJODEMAR) Volume 16, Number 1, pages 219-236.

⁸⁶ Usman, Zainab, (2022). *Economic Diversification in Nigeria: The Politics of Building a Post-Oil Economy*. ISBN 9781786993977, 9781786993960, 9781786993977, Bloomsbury Publishing, London, Zed Books, 312 pages.

as a constant power supply must be well thought out and strategized with farmers and without exploitation.⁸⁷

Conversely, Stefan argued that the solution is to invest instead of diversify to help the economy limit its dependence on natural resources; have a sensible macroeconomic management of the exchange rate, making imports cheap and the instability stemming from fluctuating commodity prices.⁸⁸ However, with the wave of globalization, the world is interdependent, which necessitates economic diversification, alignment, collaboration, and integration.⁸⁹ The focus of resilience and economic diversification is to bounce back or conserve its stance from disruptions that may arise from external turbulences. Now, more than ever, (as a blessing in disguise) Nigeria must learn to appreciate and understand the richness of its environment.⁹⁰ Nigeria must lessen importation, and focus on harnessing Nigerian resources, food, and productions: such as Ofada rice; Innoson Motors, agricultural products, and the like. There should be a statutory cap on importation. In addition to that, interstate relations must embolden a positive outlook for growth and circulation of production within the Nigerian states since every state has its own strengths.⁹¹

This study proposes that Nigeria learns from the diverse industrialization of her peer countries. Nigeria needs to go back to the drawing board and take agriculture ever so seriously and continuously once again for solid and sustainable economic growth. On the path of rebirth and recovery, out of this conundrum, an agrarian economy that was once rejected must now become a chief cornerstone.⁹² Agriculture must not be sought after, studied with scholarship opportunities, and treated just as reputable or even more than oil as the country's means of survival and economic diversification.⁹³

To prevent overconcentration on agriculture or oil, renewable sources of energy such as solar and domestic tourism are other areas that can be exploited.⁹⁴ In addition, there is a dire need to look

⁸⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸⁸ Stefan Dercon (2022). *Gambling on Development: Why Some Countries Win and Others Lose*, Hurst & Company, London, page 163.

⁸⁹ Neboh, N. D., Mbhele, T. P., & Shakantu, W. (2022). Efficacy of Supply Chain Collaboration on Resilience in the Fast-Moving Consumer Goods Retail Industry. In R. Leon, R. Rodriguez-Rodriguez, & J. Alfaro-Saiz (Ed.), *Increasing Supply Chain Performance in Digital Society* (pp. 132-152). IGI Global. <https://doi.org/10.4018/978-1-7998-9715-6.ch007> accessed 04/09/2022.

⁹⁰ Usman Zainab, (2020). "The Successes and Failures of Economic Reform in Nigeria's Post-Military Political Settlement. *African Affairs* 119 (474): 1-38.

⁹¹ Stefan Dercon (2022). *Gambling on Development: Why Some Countries Win and Others Lose*, Hurst & Company, London, page 163.

⁹² Suberu O. J., Ajala O. A., Akande M. O., Olure-Bank Adeyinka (2015). Diversification of the Nigerian Economy towards a Sustainable Growth and Economic Development, *International Journal of Economics, Finance and Management Sciences*, Volume 3, Issue 2, 107-114.

⁹³ *Ibid.*

⁹⁴ Onodugo Ifeanyi Chris, Benjamin A. Amujiri, Nwuba, Bethram Ndibe, (2015). Diversification of the economy: A panacea for Nigerian economic development, *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Development* Volume: 2, Issue: 5, 477-483.

keenly within and utilize every major and minor mode of economic diversification. Moreso, in alignment with Usman Zainab's thought (2022), there is the need to consistently prioritise security, protection, production, the balance of power, policies based on equality, inclusion, equity, and an active civil service. Furthermore, the succession of government must be beyond superficial partisan and be strategically diverse and orientated toward macroeconomic stability and the restoration of growth. On a final note, Nigeria must avoid cut-and-paste strategies because it is a truism that culture would eat strategy for breakfast. Looking outward then inward before reverting outward again, is a necessity to avoid policy somersault or flip-flopped policies. Imperatively, Nigeria must prioritize continuous research and development towards the 'know-how' and stay abreast of the latest economically viable area.

May our dreams and prayers for Nigeria manifest in our lifetime!

Additional Piece: Please find attached my KIF Application Essay as an appendix below because it is in tandem with the concept of **RISING FROM THE ASHES: STRATEGIES AND POLICIES FOR DEVELOPING (DEVELOPMENT IN) NIGERIA**

KIF's Application Essay

You are required to draft an essay of a minimum of **800 words** and not more than 1000 words.

Topic "Vision 2050: Nigeria as a Developed Country"

Please prepare a concise and properly structured strategy document that would enable Nigeria to become a developed country by the year 2050.

Introduction: First of all, there is no perfect country even the developed countries of the world strive for continuous improvement to uphold and enhance their development, these countries are great yet imperfect. Nigeria on the other hand is currently a developing, third-world nation and even though there is no universally agreed definition of 'a developed country,' there are definite indices that affirm whether or not a country is truly developed. This developed country's label ranges from factors such as strong economic status - the gross domestic product (GDP), effective industrialization, advanced medical care and insurance, low level of poverty, and strengthened human resources elements in which Nigeria falls short. Currently, this is the year 2022 meaning that Nigeria has about 28 years which is a long time to effect positive and developmental changes if utilized meticulously. My structured and feasible strategic plan that would enable Nigeria to become a developed country by the year 2050 is therefore as follows.

Strategic Plan 1: World Class Infrastructures such as good roads, universal access to pure water, stable electricity, great and furnished hospitals/health care facilities, transportation, banking, libraries, and institutions. The national reservoir of resources albeit the 'cake' of Nigeria must be judiciously utilized for structuring and restructuring Nigeria. The way forward for this is to re-orient 'representative' leaders and the public as a whole that doing otherwise impedes the integrity of the Nigerian system and hinders the nation's progression. Quality structures and sufficient supervision of these projects can potentially heighten socio-economic development in Nigeria which would, in turn, go a long way in ensuring that everyone irrespective of status has access to basic amenities.

Strategic Plan 2: Stable and democratic government with peaceful election, law and order, gender equality, freedom of speech, good government policy implementation, and protection of fundamental human rights as enshrined in Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. This will eliminate or drastically curtail insurgencies, (Boko-haram, and Herder's crises) governmental corruption, and general corrupt practices (such as hoodlums, patrimonialism, nepotism, and elitism) with have eaten deeply into the fabric of Nigerian's development. Leadership by personal example must be visible to all Nigerians as this takes a collaborative effort and a steady and sincere democratic practice. Besides, it is only stable and peaceful leadership that can foster and

negotiate superior strategic political relations for the continued excellence and betterment of Nigeria without compromise.

Strategic Plan 3: Environmental sustainability and climate change prevention or mitigation. Recycling, clean environment, energy-saving, hygiene, and sanitary conditions for men and women, especially women. It is impossible to contribute to the development of the country without the existence of industries. However, these industries must ensure that without adequate legal regulations for fellow citizens, they do not take without replenishing the societies back through effective corporate social responsibility. Individualism and collectivism must be reflected in the utmost genuine manner. For example, stabilization of power and water supplies in both rural and urban areas must be priorities, and these should in due course make the rural not-so-rural areas. This would radically attract investors from interstates and even globally.

Strategic Plan 4: Free Education and educational materials. It is not enough to simply establish institutes of learning without free, fair, and equal access to them. The majority of developed countries have a free educational system for their citizenry, and they are better for it. It must be understood that this is an unlimited venture that Nigeria must embark on to develop potential because, at the end of the day, free education is for the development of the nation. The low levels of education are a chronic feature of an undeveloped country. A high literacy rate would further increase the talent pool and knowledge bank which can be equated to better policies and decision-making for the advancement of Nigeria.

Strategic Plan 5: Food Security and stable currency - utilize globalization for our benefit - more export than import - utilizing our great resources, unique food, crops, and grains for global profit which would, in turn, enrich our great nation Nigeria. The way of life of Nigeria and Nigerians cannot be lower than average to be accurately labeled “developed.” Nigeria is dependent on the oil sector whereas other productive and competitive sectors such as agriculture, and tourism can be maximized to ensure a more industrialized and widespread balance of the economy’s revenue potential.

The Ultimate Goal of “Development”: All of these strategic plans are deeply embedded and interwoven, they go hand in hand in ensuring long-term sustainability as well as the extermination of poverty in the long run. More so, this would also create an avalanche for more employment opportunities for youths, eradicate the widespread economic abandonment, bring peace and harmony amongst the multi-ethnic cultures (combatting tribalism) in Nigeria, and foster true indivisible, united brotherhood, and sisterhood. The zeal of the Nigerian youth is a source of great strength and skills for the country’s growth. The empowerment of women also, cannot be overemphasized there is a Nigerian proverb that attests to the fact that it is a woman who understands the market conditions best. Gender equality is paramount as no nation can be fully developed without an equal combination of the wider demographics.

Conclusion: Nigeria is a bright and energetic country with a huge population and endless resources. This signals that it already has enough potential to become a giant developed country.