Volume 17 Issue 23
Originally issued as H4



Global Journal of human-social science: H Interdisciplinary
Volume 17 Issue 4 Version 1.0 Year 2017
Type: Double Blind Peer Reviewed International Research Journal
Publisher: Global Journals Inc. (USA)
Online ISSN: 2249-460x & Print ISSN: 0975-587X

Re-Positioning Nigeria towards Sustainable National Unity

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GJHSS-H Classification: FOR Code: 750399



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Re-Positioning Nigeria towards Sustainable National Unity

Ibrahim Baba [α] & Chaminda Aeysinghe [σ]

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I. Introduction

The one and united Nigeria project adopted through amalgamation principle under British colonial rule in 1914 has been suffering from serious threats of collapsing since 1966 till date. Some parties to the age long union believe they are tired and do not want to belong to it anymore while others are of the opinion that the union must be sustained at all cost. Consents of parties to be united are very significant in the establishment of every union even marriage. But from the look of how things are going in Nigeria, the architect who design Nigeria`s union as a single nation do not sort for the consents of the federated unions especially on whether they would like to be members of a single nation and central government before amalgamating them under single national union-development that has shortly after independence till date continue to threaten the unity of the nation. By amalgamating the various units without their consents under a single nation and central government, a political blunder has already been committed. But then, parties to this union if sincere will accept the fact that they can hardly do without one another or thus need each other's to be able to survive well. Therefore, the urgent task before them is how to reposition the union towards ameliorating those threats which affects their unity so as to sustain the age long national unity established since 1914.

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Dynamics of disintegration are increasingly daily in Nigeria. One truth that everyone is trying to run away from in the country is corruption at levels of the Nigerian society. Corruption is simply another word for dishonesty. Politics in Nigeria is dishonest in manner and orientation. The calls for negotiations on the terms of national unity are dishonesty-driven. The opposition to negotiation or to call for restructuring is also dishonest. The greater part of the dishonesty is located at the level of the elite. It is precisely the problem of dishonesty that largely informs the agitation for restructuring of the country. Hostility against the Government of Nigeria is largely driven by perceptions of elite corruption without impunity (Akinterinwa, 2016). Agitations for disintegration are high and largely pronounced by the common segment of the nation population. And this made it clear to some extent that the continuous existence of the nation as a single sovereign nation no longer benefits ordinary Nigerians. The elite seems to be comfortable with the current structure of the country because it fetches them and their immediate families all that are required for condition of living. Corruption with impunity provide such means to the elite as ordinary citizens have no access to the wealth of the nation.

At no time in our history, except probably during the civil war, has Nigeria being so frustrated in the feeling of oneness and belonging by the citizenry. In the last four months, we have an average of twenty hotspots across the country with huge potential for national disintegration. The masses can be mobilize to play a crucial role in strengthen the democratic process and play a crucial role in promoting a culture of tolerance, non-violence and mutual co-existence. Our strength as a nation lies in our unity and national cohesion. One of the greatest countries in the world is the United States of America. It is also one of the most diverse in ethnicity, race and religion. Its greatness is rooted in its diversity which is being utilized to advantage and actively promoted by the American people (Obasanjo, 2016 and Olatunji, 2016). At such a time in our history when we are sending elements of terror and disintegration into extinction, they are showing evidence of defeat by attempting to sow seeds of discord across the country using veiled attacks. But Nigerians are not fooled and we must not allow anyone pitch us against ourselves by fanning the embers of ethnic rivalry (Abari, 2016).

Nigeria is a place of differences. It is perhaps, a hard thing to comprehend, how that so many variations

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can exist in a single place. But it does. However, being characterized by differences does not pose a disadvantage in anyway; rather, it presents opportunities for us to maximize the options that are readily available to us. With over 250 tribes spread across the 36 states in the nation, we exposed to differences in dressing, cuisine, customs, methods and lots more. We are presented with 250 ways to view the world (Iweka, 2012). Although the creation of the country called Nigeria by Britain in 1914 has led to over fifty years of conflicts and bloodshed. Eversince independence from Britain in 1960 the African nation of Nigeria has been torn apart by wars, violence and ethnic conflict. The most famous of these disputes is of course the Biafran war which raged for nearly three years in 1967-70 as aresult of the attempted secession from Nigeria by three eastern states. Nigeria has also undergone several periods of military rule. Today it is free of this. However, the situation is as unstable as ever and violence, corruption and poverty abound (Ukoima, 2016).

Six years after independence in 1960, the civilian government broke down in conflicts among the three major ethnic groups over the distribution of power and resources. First the Hausa-dominated Northern Region and Igbo dominated Eastern Region formed alliance against the largely Yoruba-dominated Western Region. Two bloody military coups followed in 1966. Ethnic tension in the North escalated into violence against Easterners resident in the North. The Eastern Region embarked on secession and proclaimed the independent nation of Biafra. Nigeria was plunged into a civil war between 1967 and 1970. Successive coups and counter-coups were staged in the country between the end of civil war and in 1970 and 1999. Constitutions drafted by military regimes between these periods were identified with ethnic components.As a result of these experiences, building a genuinely united nation with institutions which would clamp down on violent, ethnic feelings or uprisings, became a national priority (Asinugo, 2014). The most disturbing issue at stake is that despite several efforts have been made to reposition the nation towards sustain national unity. But as soon as one particular attempt is adopted, a new issue with different solution often arises to make initial efforts worthless in positioning Nigeria towards lasting national integration and unity. The post-civil war reconciliation programs especially the National Youths Service Corp (NYSC) scheme is still on, additional states and local government areas have since then been created to strengthen federalism and the federal character policy is still on and in use but still, Nigeria`s national unity on daily basis have continued to witnessed severe threats and problems. It is however in order to ameliorate these problems and give the nation a sound track of repositioning the country towards sustainable national development that this research was necessitated.

II. Statement of Problem

Threats of disunity keep ravaging Nigeria as a nation on daily basis. Calls for dismemberment from the nation grows over time especially from the south eastern and south-southern regions of the country. Hostilities promoted by ethnic tensions are higher than ever before. Insurgency which started in the north east region since 2009 has continue to claim several lives and properties till date. Herdsmen and Farmers conflicts have also refused to come to an end in the central region of the country. Cattle rustling and armed banditry are growing higher in the north western region on daily basis. Attacks and bombardments of oil facilities which is the nation main source of foreign earning is high in the Niger Delta Region of the country. Religious intolerance has also continued to result in confrontations that often claim several lives across the northern region of the country. Politics of identity, corruption among the political elites, power struggle and allocation of resources to the federating unions are also additional issues which threatens Nigeria`s co-existence as a sing sovereign nation. Frustration incubated by poverty and youth joblessness which are also growing on daily basis contribute in the growing demand and call for disunity in the country. Re-positioning the country towards sustaining national unity is a task and challenge which must not be compromised at all cost. It is in order to achieve this aim that this research is necessitated so as to proffer solutions to the problems stated above so as to reposition the country towards sustainable national unity.

III. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this research include:

1. To examine some of the threats confronting national unity in Nigeria.
2. And to assess how to re-positionedNigeria towards sustainable national unity.

IV. Research Questions

The following are some of the questions raised and answered in this research:

1. What are some of the threats confronting national unity in Nigeria?
2. How can Nigeria be re-positioned towards sustainable national unity?

V. Literature Review

The political and social climate that prevails in Nigeria today however, emphasizes differences, disunity and destruction rather than the qualities of unity and constructive energy that are required to sustain any human society. These negative forces including Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), OhanezeIndigbo, Odu`a People's Congress (OPC), Movement for the Survival of Biafra (MOSOB), Independent People of Biafra (IPOB),

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Boko Haram, Herdsmen, Niger Delta Avengers (NDA), etc. have perpetuated Nigeria`s alienation form, the basic material root of brotherhood and peaceful co-existence as a single united nation(Okonkwo, 2016). Tragedy is a very sad event. It is even in life that evokes sorrow and grief. The nation is on the brisk of collapsing. The hope is that this threat can be wished away. The first major threat to Nigeria`s unity was in 1966 which produced civil war that killed thousands before it ended in 1970. Since then, the country has been drawn in hundred and one times by her selfish rulers to near war situations through series of show downs through utterances, uncomplimentary actions and many more. But the truth is that war tames a people hence those who have experienced it would say such a bad experience, never again (Akpati, 2015). Current generation of Nigerian youths do not actually know what it takes to witness civil war. But its present elites do. In fact most of the present political elites are retired military officers who even fought the civil war. Therefore, unguided utterances and one-sided policies which are likely to trigger ethnic tension and conflict situation in the country are not supposed to be made by them.

Authorities in Nigeria are very good at resource exploitation. But managing the source of the resources has always been a problem or issue which has often result in conflicts. The Niger Delta issue is still an important matter to address if Nigeria`s unity is to prevail uninterruptedly. The apprehension, trial and sentenced to death of Saro Wiwa, invasion of Odi community by one battalion of Nigerian government Army leading to the destruction of lives and properties as well as the government`s military operation code named "Operation Crocodile Smile" to checkmate the activities of pipeline vandalism are to me all mistakes (Baba, 2014). Political issues are best settled using political means but not repressive approach. Nigeria political elite circle to me is a committee of ex-military men. They are not too familiar with political approach to political problems. And this may probably be one of the reasons why repressive approach has often been adopted in quenching political problem. Nigeria`s leadership under democratic era still rotate among its former military dictators. And this to me is also a threat to the unity of the country. Most of them were part of the soldiers that fought in the nation`s civil war which lasted between 1967 to 1970. Best approach to solving threat to national unity to them as can be noticed is military means. Leadership problem incubated through adoption of wrong approach towards issue has continued to threaten the unity of Nigeria.

The Niger Delta question is an age long issue in Nigeria. An answer has not been provided for the question till date. Oil Mineral Producing Areas Development Commission (OMPADEC) first and now a Ministry for Niger Delta exist in the country. But still, these initiatives only succeeded in creating fortunes for elites and politicians to better their lots while improve environmental and living conditions are yet to be actually achieved in the same region which produce commodity that fetch the country highest percent of its foreign earning (Baba, 2014). There seems to be a conspiracy in the Niger Delta problem in Nigeria. The positions of the federal government, community leaders and oil companies operating in the region are not still clear to the Nigerian people concerning the management of environment and improving living conditions of people in the region. These three parties are busy making fortunes with much attention to profits than addressing the hardships oil exploration is causing in the region. And the frustration this has created on the lives of the people in the region has force demand for improve environmental management and peoples living conditions to graduate into request for restructuring and dismemberment from the sovereign state of Nigeria.

The hostilities in the Niger Delta and steps been taken by the Federal Government to resolve them have once again sparked off debates over the national question (Vanguard, 2016). Are the agitations and destruction of oil pipelines a resultant from the quest for separation from Nigeria of from grievances about the polity? The first and ultimate objective of militancy is not about dismemberment of Nigeria, but a protest against non-attention to well-known grievances of the militants. The grievances are basically ascribable to perceived unfairness and injustice (Akinterinwa, 2016). Basic reason why communities where oil is not produce in Nigeria boast of outstanding living conditions and basic amenities achieved with oil fortunes while those places which produce the commodity wallow in abject poverty with shortage of basic amenities and contaminated environment for social economic development to thrive is what common sense cannot still understand in the country. Marginalization created by gross injustice and corruption on the part of elites to me provide reason to understand this disparity a lot.

Although there are several threats to Nigeria`s continuous existence as a single sovereign nation. But the possible of disintegration in the near future is not very clear to me. The elites whose supports are required to make disintegration possible are strongly united because the unity of the country seems to be fetching them serious fortunes through corruption and injustice at the expense of the ordinary citizens. The masses are not united. And they are the ones seeing no reason in the country`s unity because it is not translating in positive changes in their lives. Agitations for disintegration only results in conflicts which affect the lives of ordinary citizens but not those of the elites. Both the elites and masses are individuals' band together under a single national structure and government in Nigeria. Therefore, there is the need to work collectively towards safeguarding the rights and interest of the both parties. Group be it political or economic emerged out

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of the need to survive therefore, the Niger Delta people deserve to be listened to but not threatened or provoked into demanding for dismemberment from Nigeria. Abdullahi (2007) initially submits that their rights as members to exist must be secured and promoted by the central government like those of other members belonging to the federal union and arrangement in other regions of the country.

Nigeria since independence in 1960 has had several regimes and governments. Both civilian and military governments have existed in the country. And all demonstrated their commitment to strengthening federalism in the country. But still the nation`s kind of federalism to me is not still very clear. Nigeria operate a federal system which over concentrated so much power in the central authority while other levels of government exist with minimal power to control affairs within their defined areas of administrative jurisdiction. Government at the center claim ownership of resources produce at local level, exploit the resources and decide on allocation formula orhow fortunes from the resources will be distributed among it and other levels of governments. In true federalism, it is expected that the real owner of resources but not government at the center take responsibility for exploiting its resources and remit taxes to the central authority based on its earnings. Federalism is though contextual. But what operate in Nigeria to me can hardly be defined as true federalism. Atiku (2016) asserts that:

"A true federal system will allow the federating state to keep their resources while the federal government retains the power of taxation and regulating authority over standards. The result will be a political and governmental system that empowers local authorities and gives them greater autonomy to address peculiar issues, while enhancing accountability and contributing to the general good of the country. Such a robust federal system would reduce the tensions that are built into our current over-centralized system. Autonomy for the component states and localities to determine their development priorities and wage structures and a tax-centered revenue base with diversified economic activities and productivity in order to enlarge the tax base. Taxation is a sustainable revenue base and one that compels government to promote increased economic activities, and respond to the demand of their tax paying citizens" (Atiku, 2016).

The issue of little or lack of attention to environmental problem by authorities spread across all the six geo-political regions of the country. But the one in Niger Delta has often triggered conflicts because of the importance of the crude oil produce in the region to Nigeria`s economy. Desert encroachment into the country has forced herdsmen to push south ward in search of greener pasture for their livestock-development that often result in high rate of herdsmen and farmers conflicts in the three geo-political zones of northern Nigeria in addition to age-long insurgency in north east, frequent cattle rustling in north west and religious conflicts in north central and the other two regions of northern Nigeria. In fact, Adujie (2007) observed that some Nigerians kill other Nigerians because of religious fervor and religious fanaticism. These aside, both the south western and eastern regions of the country also have their own peculiar environmental problems. Leaching and erosion are high in these regions. One actually wonder what the allocation to the environment sector is been used for. Environment is one of the issues listed by Uzochukwu (2015) as basic problems facing Nigeria today. Environmental issue has resulted in several form of conflicts with ethnic, religion and political affiliations in northern region of the country. Invasion by herdsmen pushing south ward into the country in search of greener pasture overtaken by desert encroachment in the Sahel and upper portions of the Sudan savannah vegetation zones of Nigeria constitute itself, a serious threat to the unity of the country. These sandy region of the country provide a safe linkage with North African countries. And allegations are high that the same route is used to smuggled arms into Nigeria from north African country like Libya to sustain the insurgency threatening Nigeria`s sovereignty and unity in the north east region of the country.

Possibly, the greatest challenges facing Nigeria today is the threat to national unity, as centrifugal tensions, resource control and self-determination, ethnicity based identity politics and religious cleavages have enveloped national consciousness. Since independence in 1960, national integration has been a top priority of governments in Nigeria. The National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) scheme, the Unity Schools, the Federal Character Principle, and State Creation are examples of state policies intended to achieve this goal. Although it is now clear that the outcome of integration policies and programs in Nigeria have fallen far below expectation, as primordial ethnic loyalties are still deep seated. Ethnic particularism is seen as the major cause of this failure (Eaglesisland, 2012). State creation too was seen not only as a tool for strengthening federalism in Nigeria but also as a strategy for promoting the unity of the country. This approach also failed as an approach to national integration and local autonomy. Therefore, investing in education, implementation of food security policies, rural development and effective youth empowerment program may serve as alternative approach to national integration in Nigeria (Alapiki, 2005).

It is vital to maintain peace and unity in the multi-ethnic and multi-religious country of Nigeria. With more than 250 ethnic tribes and various religious beliefs divided across geo-political lines –of Muslim North and Christian South, the nation`s unity is woefully threatened by ethnocentrism, sentiments and religious fanatic.

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Religious radicalism in the Northern part of the country has caused more harm and hatred among the overall Nigerians more than any other issues (Shuaibu, 2012). The various challenges confronting Nigeria would be surmounted if the government and citizens made pragmatic efforts to promote peace and harmony through cultural activities. Cultural festivals are initiative to foster a sense of togetherness among the various ethnic groups in the country. Cultural festivities typically promote national cohesion, consensus building and peaceful mutual coexistence (Edomonwonyi, 2013). Respect each other friendship, reconciliation, transparency, good economy and trust are good measures to promoting unity and national integration in Nigeria (eLimu, 2015).

Persistent demand for disintegration will only result in hardship on the living conditions of the ordinary citizens as a result of conflicts that such demands will continued to produce. Repressive approaches often adopted by government to address such demands will also result in difficulties which would only end on the lives of the ordinary citizens. There is actually no need to demand for dismemberment from Nigeria. But peaceful protest calling for dialogue to address the issue of marginalization, improve environmental management and living conditions of people are not wrong. It is government deaf ears and repressive approach towards these calls that is forcing people to demand for dismemberment from the nation and attacking oil facilities to cripple national economy and force government to listen to the voices of people. Nigeria`s unity as a single sovereign entity is important. And this politicians must acknowledged. Those who labored for the establishment of a united nation of Nigeria are dead. Therefore politicians and elites must be warned to stay clear from adopting selfish policies which are likely to create religion tensions, ethnic conflicts and hatred as well as other issues which threaten the unity of Nigeria. Below is a quote from one of Nigeria`s founding fathers in person of Late Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa on the need to sustain the nation`s national unity as submitted by Cartey and Kilson (1970):

"This is a great day for Nigeria. It marks the beginning of the last stage of our march towards independence. The most important result of the constitutional changes in 1954 was the introduction of a federal form of government for Nigeria-a system which I had advocated as far back as 1948 in the old legislative council. I am pleased to see that we are now all agreed that the federal system is, under present conditions, the only sure basis on which Nigeria can remain united. We must recognize our diversity and the peculiar conditions under which the different tribal communities live in this country. To us in Nigeria therefore unity in diversity is a source of great strength, and we must do all in our power to see that this federal system of government is strengthened and maintained. Because of our firm believe in the need for national unity, I decided that the country ought to have a National Government so that the three major political parties, the NCNC, the Action Group, and the NPC, could be closely associated with the making of policy and planning in preparation for 1960. I regard the period between now and 1960 as one of national emergency-a period in which we should bury our political differences and work together as a team so that our ambition of to achieve independence may be realized. In all this I must express my gratitude to Dr. Azikiwe, to Chief Awolowo, to Dr. Endeley, and to the leader of my own party, the Sardauna of Sokoto, for their cooperation and support for my decision.

I must return to my main theme. The future of this vast country of Nigeria must depend in the main on the efforts of ourselves. This we cannot do if we are not working together in unity. Indeed unity today is our greatest concern and it is the duty of every one of us to work to strengthen it. Bitterness due to political differences will carry Nigeria nowhere and lappeal to all political leaders throughout the country to try to control their party extremists. Nigeria is large enough to accommodate us all in spite of our differences" (Balewa, 1957).

From the above quote, it is a task and duty on all Nigerians to work collectively as a team towards sustaining the nation`s unity. And in order to ensure that the labor of our past heroes does not go in vain, both ordinary citizens, politicians and elites must work together in repositioning Nigeria towards sustainable national unity. Achieving this great task is among the basic objectives which necessitated this research.

VI. Methodology

This research is conducted with the used of qualitative research methodology. The Researchers adopted the descriptive method of analysis in conducting the research. Secondary based data were utilized in the research. Secondary data were sourced from secondary materials like journal articles, textbooks, newspapers, magazines, bulletins, lecture notes and other periodicals as well as internet based information.

VII. Data Presentation

The data presentation of this research is done under two different headings such as:

Threats to national unity in Nigeria

Threats to national unity in Nigeria as the Researcher observed include:

1. Poor national governance and leadership
2. Marginalization
3. Religious intolerance
4. Internal conflicts affiliated with ethnic, religion and politics of identity
5. Poor environmental management policy
6. Over centralization of power and resources

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7. Corruption
8. Poverty
9. Unemployment
10. Lack of patriotism

Re-positioning towards National unity

The Researchers also observed that repositioning Nigeria towards sustainable national unity will require the followings:

1. Good national governance and effective leadership
2. Inclusive politics that will carry along all segments of the Nigerian society
3. Religious tolerance among the various religious group in the country
4. Effective conflict resolution and management approach
5. Good and effective environmental policy
6. Decentralization of power and resources to strengthen federalism
7. Unbiased war against corruption
8. Effective poverty alleviation or eradication policy and program
9. Job creation
10. Patriotism on the parts of every Nigerian citizen

VIII. Discussion of Results

It is however clear from the data presented above that there is problem of national governance and leadership in Nigeria today. This has continue to result in serious threat to the nation`s unity as a single sovereign entity. Power shift on regional basis often result to civil disturbances on the other side of the country. This is often due to fear of perceive marginalization. The north when power shifted to the south became a venue for religion, ethnic and various forms of conflicts due to fear of marginalization by the south, power has shifted to the north and the south due to fear of perceive marginalization is now engulfed with conflicts like demand for resource control and dismemberment from the Nigerian nation. Government poor environmental policy has continued to result in conflicts across the various regions of the country. Oil exploration has continue to pollute environment in the Niger Delta of the country. This has often create tensions like attacks on oil facilities by aggrieved groups and recently demand for restructuring and dismemberment from the sovereign state of Nigeria. In the frontal portion of the country, poor environmental policy to checkmate desert encroachment has continued to push herdsmen south ward in search of greener pasture for their livestock. This push has often amounted to herdsmen and farmers conflicts and other conflicts affiliated with ethnic and religion in the northern region of Nigeria.

In Nigeria, power and resources are more concentrated in the center than at the state and local levels. This seems to be affecting the delivering of good governance at the local level. Corruption which is also high among the political elites has continue to make it difficult for services needed for improve standard of living to be delivered to the ordinary citizens in the country. Government attempts towards fighting corruption itself are often identified with biasness and political inclination in Nigeria. Anti-corruption war targets members of opposition political parties than of the ruling political party. Insecurity itself has continued to keep away foreign investors from Nigeria-development which is translating in job loss and lack of new ones for the unemployed youths. Poverty created by job loss and unemployment have often resulted in frustration and lack of patriotism from the side of the ordinary citizens. Several poverty alleviation projects and programs adopted in the country were wrongly implemented leading to the continued existence of the problem that necessitated the adoption of the projects and programs in the country. National Poverty Eradication Program (NAPEP) as well as several rural development programs like Directorate for Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructures (DFRRI) among others were adopted in Nigeria. But still poverty, unemployment and shortage of basic amenities still continued to rise at the community level across the country. These put together threatens the stability and continue existence of the country as a single sovereign nation.

IX. Summary of Findings

Based on the data presented and discussed above, the followings emerged as the summary of the findings of this research:

1. Nigeria`s national unity is threaten by problem of poor national governance and leadership, rise in complains of marginalization by minority ethnic groups, corruption among the political elite, religious intolerance, internal conflicts affiliated with ethnic, religion and politics of identity, over centralization of power and resources, poor and ineffective environmental policy, lack of patriotism on the part of the citizens, repressive approach to managing political conflicts, poverty and joblessness among others.
2. Good national governance and leadership, inclusive politics that carry along all minority tribes in the governance of the country, unbiased war against corruption, religion tolerance, decentralization of power and resources, effective environmental policy, effective conflict resolution and management approach, sound poverty alleviation programs and job creation strategies as well as patriotism from the part of the citizens are observed by the Researcher as some of the measures needed to reposition Nigeria towards sustainable national unity.

X. Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the data presented and discussed above as well as the major findings made in this

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research, the following recommendations are hereby made by the Researchers:

1. Formulation and implementation of sound environmental policy is needed in Nigeria. Such policy should be designed towards addressing environmental problem caused by oil exploration in the Niger Delta region of the country. It should also tackle the menace of desert encroachment which is pushing herdsmen south ward into the country thereby resulting in conflicts with religion and ethnic affiliations.
2. As a matter of urgency, there is the need for government in Nigeria to adopt poverty eradication program and see to its full implementation so as to reduce the level of poverty ravaging the country. Effective poverty eradication or alleviation program should be designed to target the rural populace as beneficiaries. It should not only end in sharing money to the people. It should be designed to create skill acquisition among the teaming youths of the country. After skill acquisition, soft loan or credit facilities can be given to beneficiaries to start up investment of their own. This will reduce the level of frustration often caused by poverty in the country.
3. Effective channels and approaches to resolving and managing conflicts are also needed in Nigeria. Approaching political problems with repressive approaches will not lead to a well management of conflicts. It will only worsen it. Dialogues are required as solution to political problem but not military operations as in the Niger Delta region of the country. Government should set up a committee to dialogue with the representatives of the various groups in the region with a view to finding lasting solution to environmental problem bedeviling the region. And to also create necessary conditions for the improvement of the living standard of people in the region. These will reduce the unnecessary attacks on oil facilities and crippling of national economy.
4. The zero-sum party political system is not ideal for a multi-tribal, culture and religion country like Nigeria. This is because the chances of exclusion of several parties are high in it. Political parties in the country should adopt the non-zero sum game theory towards politics in the country. This will lead to a more inclusive system of governance where minority tribes or groups in the country stand to be part of any government established by person from different region. This will ameliorate the persistent fear of marginalization by smaller or minority tribes in the country. And this will also lead to reduction in the threat to national unity which the fear of marginalization often triggered in the country.
5. There is also serious need to adopt unbiased approach to war against corruption in Nigeria. If care is not taken, corruption is likely one of the problems that stand to rob Nigeria of its age-long unity. Government must repositioned the anti-corruption agencies like EFCC and ICPC to tackle corruption among Nigerians without impunity on political, ethnic and religion ground. The biasness experience in war against corruption if care is not taken can cost Nigeria its sovereignty with time to come if nothing is done to adopt unbiased approach to war against corruption.
6. Nigeria is diverse in culture, religion and tribes. Therefore, there is also need to adopt measures that will promote national integration among these diverse groups. The National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) scheme is a good effort towards national integration. But it validity in sustaining national integration is failing with the new waves of issues and conflicts across the country. Inter-marriage and cultural festival promotions will assist in creating cultural and religion tolerance among Nigerians. "FESTAC 1977" succeeded in bringing together different black cultures from various places in Africa under single cultural promotion exercise in Nigeria. This type of festivity cement relationship and promote harmony among people of different culture. There is therefore need for government in Nigeria to periodically promote cultural festivities to be organize occasionally on regionally basis in the country just like the national sport festival. This will assist in creating the love of togetherness among the various people of the country.
7. The issue of over centralization of power and resources in Nigeria need to be revisited. There is need to decentralize power and resources among the levels of government as federalism implies. A federal structure with weak center and little concentration of power and resources will greatly reduce the agitation for disintegration in Nigeria. If the center is weak, no or little attention will be concentrated there. Local and state governments should take responsibility for the exploitation of their resources and remit taxes to the center base on earnings. The remitted taxes should aid government at the center to cater for national issues like defense, internal and external affairs among others. A system where central government claim ownership of local resources and decide how much of earnings from the resources goes to the local government will continue to result in threat to national unity in Nigeria.
8. And the government through it orientation agency must invest in the development of patriotism on the minds of the Nigerian citizens. From the look of things, Nigerian citizens are trapped up in between affluence and poor leadership. They no longer have faith in their political elites anymore. Politicians to most of them are not only corrupt but liars. This thought has continue to affect their patriotism to the

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nation. There is actually the need to orientate them that government is for them and the nation exist for their well-being. Through civic education in schools, radio and television programs, citizens should be made to understand the importance of their patriotism to the nation. This will result in attitudinal change on the part of the citizens and improve their patriotism to the nation. It is also hoped that sound patriotism and love for the nation if instill in the people will make it difficult for them to indulge in acts which are likely to tear apart the nation.

XI. Future Research

Finally, haven identified some of the major threats to national unity in Nigeria and some possible alternative measures required to re-positioned the nation towards sustainable national unity, it is however recommended that future research shift a little bit away from threats to Nigeria`s national unity and how to re-positioned the country towards sustainable national unity to issues that have to do with promoting unity in diversity among the various people of the country as well as the benefits inclined with the continuous existence of the nation as a single sovereign entity.

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