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**Insecurity and Terrorism in Nigeria**

Insecurity and terrorism have been a substantial problem in the country since the early 2000s following militancy in the Niger Delta and the insurgent religious fundamentalism Boko Haram which has continued to claim many lives in the northeast Nigeria.

Nigeria has no such genuine development ideology. Malaysia in the late 1960s imported palm seedlings from Nigeria, today they are world leaders in oil palm produce while Nigeria’s oil boom has turned to oil doom. In Nigeria, it is an irony that a sixth world leader in crude oil production does not have a functional refinery!. The Niger Delta is marginalized, true federalism has been a problem. Julius Nyerere of Tanzania one of the outstanding African leaders pursued Ujamma as a home grown development project. This article suggests alternative home grown participatory development strategy for Nigeria at the post crude oil economy.

The aid based strategies such as Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) of the mid 1980s failed. Nigeria and Nigerians cannot perpetually remain twisted with the ugly memory and sad commemoration of colonial plunder. Nigerians should rise beyond the woes of colonialism and confront the exploitative international capitalist system . It is true that delinking and re linking from the exploitative international capitalist system by a dependent economy is a challenge Nigeria has no choice than to confront capitalism.

Alternative strategies that are non-dependent on the West are plausible. Nigerian state is riddled with contradictions, for instance internal colonialism has been at issue, the big three namely; Hausa /Fulani, Igbo and Yoruba dominate the political and economic space of Nigeria. Moses Ochonu(2008) explores “colonialism within colonialism” to buttress what he termed the “Hausa-caliphate imaginary and the British colonial administration” of the Nigerian Middle Belt.

 Since 1960, to sincerely evolve an exact census figure has been at issue. Census figures are inexact, to conduct free, fair and credible elections are difficult if not impossible, election has been a “do or die” affair, marred with rigging. The election results are contested or settled in the law courts, ascribed rather than achieved criteria is a substantial part of the public sector recruitment and political appointments. Contracts are awarded without due process and on the basis of informal relationship. Insecurity has claimed several innocent lives as the faceless Boko Haram insurgency unleash repeated terror on the north east Nigeria.

To confront post -colonial contradictions is to evolve capacity for governance, not zoning of political office but certain yardsticks should be constitutionally set up and whoever meets such criteria from whatever ethnic origin or geographical area should rule. The national Assembly should be a part time political endeavour to check the cost of governance as Nigeria has the highest paid National Assembly members in the world.

Again economic diversification is key to self-reliant development (see the example of Indonesia).Nigeria has abundant natural resources other than crude Oil. Tin ,Bauxite, Coal ,Gold, The Cocoa economy in the Western region could be resurrected, the groundnut pyramid could be brought back to life, the oil palm economy in the South East Nigeria could sustain the Nigerian economy. There is abundant aqua culture potential in the Niger Delta as well as untapped tourism potentials. Several countries rely on tourism as economic drivers. An economic blue print and pro poor macro- economic policy, radical rethinking of the future of Nigeria is critical. I proposes a participatory civil society that could be proactive like the 2011 Arab Spring.

Conscious efforts should be made at building civil society alliances and networks where the citizens could create common grounds to have a voice in governance and decision making, and participate actively in civic responsibilities such as elections, vote massively for candidates of their choice and insist their votes must count. Such radical revolution and awareness will collectively redirect the business of governance where state Governors cart away monthly state allocation.

Mismanagement of the economy since 1960 has made a mockery of governance and has been a primary reason for Nigeria’s backwardness. Achebe stated that nothing is wrong with the Nigerian environment rather the trouble with Nigeria is failure of leadership(Achebe,1983) Rather than resilient to neo colonial exploitation Nigerians have been subservient partners and vulnerable to Western capitalist exploitation.

Debt burden has derailed economic liberation and dependence on the West which affects Nigeria’s international policy thrust. The BRICS and the recently commenced Development Bank (DB) could provide alternative fiscal direction in the international system against the Breton Woods institutions and their financial hegemony namely; the World Bank and IMF. Nigeria should chart a novel cause in search for development. Specifically discipline sincerity and inclusive participatory bottom top strategies are suggested.

A change in attitude and novel thinking for patriotic and emancipatory endeavour would best facilitate the development of Nigeria.