The Executive, Legislature and the Judiciary: Toward Democratic Governance in Nigeria Since 1914

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Abstract

The paper examined governance in Nigeria since 1914, and look at how the executive, legislatures, and the judiciary operate in the country, indeed, the three arms of government are believing to operate as a watchdog to each other. This study is qualitative, the researcher obtained all the relevant and related data from the documented material, the research designed for this paper is a case study approach, it also helps in providing an in-depth understanding of a case where the researcher digs deeply into a phenomenon in obtaining the related literature. To support the paper the researcher adopted pluralism theory to explain the write-up. The postulation of the theory is to examine political actions in modern democratic states. The study found that the northern and the southern region were amalgamated by the British administration for their personal and economic gain, without considering the complex nature heterogeneity nature of the nation. This has created several problems across the nation. Therefore, the study recommended that for peaceful democratic governance all the three arms of government shall have autonomous power to discharge their constitutional responsibilities. No, any arm shall exercise the powers of the other. Again, for Nigeria to live in peace and harmony, and to attain national and economic development there is a need to accept the principle of unity of purpose.

Keywords: Executive; Governance; Judiciary; Legislature; Nigeria

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INTRODUCTION

Nigeria with a projected population of 196,651,048 and one of the largest nation in Africa blessed with human and material resources, is by far the most populated nation in Africa (Ali, Zakuan, and Ahmad, 2018 & UNDESA, 2018). Nigeria has three tiers of government structure these includes local, state, and the federal government. It also has 774 local government, thirty-six states, and federal capital territory (Ahmed & Shehu, 2014).

The history of the Nigerian legislature's dates to the Lagos legislative council of 1862, established under the British colonial administration. Nigeria was created by the colonial masters like most African nations, most African states have passed through this experience of the colonial rule (Goitom, 2017).

The belief is that good governance and democracy are not basically required but essential conditions for national development. Taken together, "democracy good governance" refers commonly to a political government based on the classical of a liberal-democratic institution, which was established to protects human and civil rights, joint with a knowledgeable, non-corrupt and answerable public government (Leftwich, 1993).

Constitutionally, the legislatures are to offers a check and balance to the executives. The legislatures work as a watchdog on the public finance as part of its mistaken roles over the executive in the managing of the capital and resources of the state to guarantee decent governance and accountability (Babawale, 2006; Ige, 2015 & Oyewo, 2007). Similarly, Lafenwa, (2009) observed that the legislatures are the machine of elected governance, as laws made by it set the agenda for the government and regulate the

behavior of the people. Thus, he noted that the legislatures occupies a strong position in the decision making and as well as lawmaking in the state, but yet some of them are involved in corrupt practices or supporting the corrupt minded individuals as an incentive to approve and pass appropriation bills or in awarding of contract for private interest (Ige, 2015; Otusanya, 2010; Oyewo, 2007).

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Considering the heterogeneity nature of the country that is made up of people of different religion, culture, tribes, and education background. Yet, the British colonial masters deliberately amalgamated the northern and southern protectorates. The northern and the protectorates were amalgamed in 1914 by the British colonial administration for their selfless, personal, and economic gain or benefit, the annexation of these two different protectorates has created a huge gap that needs to be filled. Peoples are encountering several problems in the nation as a result of the merger. The three arms of government are elected to discharge their constitutional duties, and to act as watched dogs to each other, with this they can represent, present the needs, yearning, as well as protect the right and interest of the general populace. Unfortunately, the reverse is the case in the Nigerian context, where the arms of government are presenting and protecting their personal interest by encouraging or involving themselves in the corrupt act, and by extension dominated the minority ethnic groups in the various geo-political zones of the nation. This has created a big vacuum that needs to be filled (Ige, 2015; Otusanya, 2010; Oyewo, 2007). Given this, the paper examined the relationship between the

three arms of government (Executive, Legislature and the Judiciary) and how they operate in the country, Since 1914.

Purpose of the Study

1. Examined why the northern and southern protectorate was amalgamated in 1914
2. Explored how the three arms of government operate in Nigeria.
3. Demonstrate the effects of the unification of the northern and southern protectorate.

Historical Development of the Nigerian Constitution

Northern and Southern Protectorates of Nigeria were amalgamated in 1914 by the British government into one group by the 1914 Constitution, this constitution conferred the legislative and executive powers of the colony to the Governor General. The colonial constitutional development of Nigeria was importantly prejudiced by the Governor Generals selected to manage the colony. Soon after the appointment of Sir Hugh Clifford in 1921, he canceled the 1914 Constitution. In 1922, a new Constitution was propagated. This development was deceptive again in 1931 when Sir Donald Cameron was chosen as Governor General and in 1945 when Sir Arthur Richards was chosen as Governor. It should be renowned that each appraisal gives rise to the devolution of power to the provinces of the nation and more participation in governance by Nigerians. Sir John McPherson became Governor General in 1948 and under his leadership, the so-called McPherson Constitution was accepted in 1951. This Constitution decentralized much power to the regions, making them more independent in relation to a distinct area. More so, several Nigerians were voted into the regional Houses of Assembly than the chosen official members. In Addition, the federal House of Representatives was dominated by elected Nigerians. Despite this, the colonial administrative sustained a steady and strong control over law-making (Nwauche, 1954 & Goitom, 2017).

A new constitutional plan was approved in 1954, which lead to independence in 1960. Under this Constitution, the Executive Council and the regional Houses of Assembly became progressive and run by the citizens as the nation sketched closer to independence. To some level, the administration was eventually ruled by the Governor General, at the center, and the Governors at the regions.

Nigeria became an independent nation on 1 October 1960 through a law passed by the British Assembly, permitted 'An Act to make establishment for, and in relation with the accomplishment by Nigeria of Wholly Responsible Status among the Commonwealth.' The 1960 Constitution recognized a parliamentary system of government with a central government and three regional governments in Nigeria. The 1960 Constitution also limited a bill of rights, which was one of the procedures planned to moderate the uncertainties of the minority's dominion by the three main ethnic groups (Hausa/Fulani in the north, Yoruba in the west, and Igbo in the south) in Nigeria. The introduction of the bill of rights and other measures were part of the commendations of the Willinck Commission of Investigation into the fears of minorities domination in the country. In this Constitution, the Judicial Commission of the Privy Council sustained to be Nigeria's high court (Francis, 2008 & Nwauche, 1954).

METHODOLOGY

This paper is qualitative study, the researcher used relevant and related materials in explaining the topic under study, by systematically reviewing the relevant articles, journals, books, magazines, reports, and newspapers among others. This study is a case study where the researcher Studied an event, a program, an activity through multiple sources. It also helps in Providing an in-depth understanding of a case (es) (Braun and Clarke, 2013; Creswell., 2014 & Othman, 2018).

Theoretical Framework

There are many theories that can explain the topic under investigation, but for the purpose of this paper, the researcher adopted Pluralism theory support the argument on the amalgamation of the northern and southern protectorates and how the three arms of government function in a democratic setting.

Pluralism Theory

Considering the heterogeneity nature of the country, the study uses Pluralism theory to explain or support the topic under study. The theory traditionally explained political actions in modern democratic states, it is also primarily on the standpoint that citizens are involved in political grounds through diverse interest groups, it believes that political power should be spread to secure the genuine welfares of the citizens and none of these groups should dominate the system (Miller, 1983).

The first strength of this theory is that it clearly discourses and recognizes the reality of diversity among different groups in the political context. Therefore, the theory suggested for equal opportunity to all interest groups whether huge or minor to contest and partake, based on their political interests. This is because the government will guard them to ensure that they get the same treatment at all level of power. Secondly, the strength of pluralism theory is that it inspires small groups to grow their strategies by upholding their political interest. The assumption of the theory is that the government try to overcome existing problems and to mediate all conflicts between interest groups or between interest groups and the government. Consequently, the theory leads to averting a dictatorship owing to the check and balance system (Rohman, 2013; Miller, 1983 & Self, 1985)

LITERATURE AND CONCEPTUALIZATION

The term amalgamation means different things to different people. To the metallurgist, "It is the mixture of two elements to form one unique element (Eric, 2016)."

The concept of governance is wider than that of government which conservatively refers to the formal official structure and setting of authoritative decision making in the modern state. Governance, on the other hand, refers to a looser and broader distribution of both internal and external political and economic power. Governance, therefore, signifies "the structures of political and, fatefully, economic relationships and rules by which the industrious and distributive life of a society is ruled" (Leftwich, 1993).

Under the literature relevant and related books, articles, journals, reports, published and unpublished articles were systematically reviewed. A study by (Angus James Francis, 2008), revealed that a good confidence reading of central global defense duties needs that states employ fitting legislative, administrative and judicial devices to guarantee the pleasure of a fair and operative refuge procedure. In a similar view Roy, (2006) exposed that a federal system of government is essentially given effect through establishments of numerous types. In a federation, as in some systems of statutory government in the 21st century, the likely agenda for the body of these establishments, however, is deficient, in sharing public power between three arms of government: the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary. Each of these arms serves or perform a role, that is the reason for its formation, powers, and mode of operations are modified. Based on this, the part of the organizations and the connection between arms differs significantly between the central systems.

Separation of Powers

1999 Constitution gives the exercise of executive, legislative, and judicial powers on different arms of government. The legislative power of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is conferred on the National Assembly, which is made up of the upper and lower house. (Senate and Representatives). The legislative power of the state of the federation is conferred on that state's House of Assembly. While the executive powers of the federation are conferred on the President, the executive

powers of a state lie with the Governor. The judicial powers of the federation are vested in the superior courts of record established under section 6 of the 1999 Constitution. It became clearer in the course of the discussion below that the endowment of powers on different bodies is not sealed, because these bodies exercise powers that would normally have been believed to fit other structures of government. This point has been known by Nigerian courts (Nwauche, 1954 & Goitom, 2017). The above assertions are in line with pluralism theory that leads to avoidance of autocracy owing to the check and balance among the three arms of government.

Similarly, a study by Antonin, (1983), revealed that the principle of separation of power was formed forth in the constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts before it originates its way into the federal document. However, the Massachusetts constitution reads, with lawyers like (if to some extent tedious) simplicity he then added that:

The legislative department shall never exercise the executive and judicial powers, or either of them; the executive shall never exercise the legislative and judicial powers or either of them; the judicial shall never exercise the legislative or executive powers, or either of them.

It continues to stress the significance label to this provision by adding: *"at the end, it may be a government of law and order not of Man"* as though that feature, above all others, was to guarantee the nonappearance of dictatorship. This assertion is in line with the pluralist theory that criticizes dictatorship in the democratic settings.

Functions of the Three Arms of Government

According to Chief Anthony Idigbe, SAN; Mr. Layi Bbabtunde, SAN; Mr. Ebun-Olu Adegboruwa, right activist; Mr. Isreal Mbaebie, political activist; Kola Peters Dopamu and Niyi Idowu, former General Secretary, Ikeja branch of Nigerian Bar Association, NBA. The three arms of government play an important role in the nascent democracy in Nigeria, though it functions everywhere. They are of the opinion that, democracy is known to be organized division of power between the executives, legislatures, and judiciary. This is in line with the postulation of Pluralism theory which suggested for equal opportunity to all interest groups whether huge or minor to contest and partake in political governance, based on their interests. This is because the government will guard them to ensure that they get the same treatment at all level of power. The fact is that when the three arms are twig together without division they can go amiss, this can lead to despotism, and it can as well lead to uncertainty. In a similar view a study by Abdulah (2018), disclosed that democracy is planned to be entrenched division of power. Power in the executive institutions, power in the legislative institutions and power in the judiciary institutions, then there are check and balances between the three arms of government, this means one institution check the activities of the other institution. Here check and balance mean that no institution within his own sphere can do the whole activities; he must need the others to cooperate through a check system to balance the power. Everyone participates, that is the check (Abdulah, 2018).

Based on the above views it is understood that democracy is all about the division of power between the three institutions that operate to manage the affairs of the nation or state. It is essentially planned difference, inbuilt in the Nigerian legitimate plan to throw up the best and avoid uncertainty and autocracy. Looking at the arrangement clearly noticed that judiciary has a role to perform, to balance the power and to act as a checker on the other arms of government. That is how the constitution was designed and wanted to operate.

In a related development a study by Onyekpere (2018) exposed that the Federal Republic of Nigerian Constitution of 1999 as amended provides for the three arms of government at the federal state levels viz. the executives, legislatures and the judiciary. The demand to disperse the numerous functions and duties of the state arouses from the ideas that the concentration of powers on one individual or body may lead to tyranny and suppression of the rights of the citizenry. This is the democratic procedures of doing things which distinguish kingdoms, authoritarianism, and egalitarianism in the country. This is in line with the assertions of the pluralist theory that stressed on proper division of power among the citizens in a democratic setting.

In addition, Onyekpere (2018) explained that section 4 of the Federal Republic of Nigerian National Assembly is instilled with lawmaking power. The body was established to make laws for peace and security of the nation, order and good government of the country. Other sections of the constitution inculcate the legislature with power and responsibilities of adoption, representation, oversight over executive movements, and the power to approve firm executive appointments. He then added that section 5 of the Nigerian Constitution vested in the power of the executive to the President to execute all the laws validly made by the federal Legislatures. The Judiciary interprets the laws, to protect the constitution and democratic principles as the stronghold of human right and fundamental freedom. Constitutionally, all the three arms of government should work pleasantly for good governance and development. Example, the executive initiate bills which need accelerated consideration of the legislatures. It is believing that there can be no budget if the executives do not do the preliminary work and arrangement. Certain presidential nominees need confirmation of the Senate for them to occupy the positions.

Because of the strong power vested on the Upper and Lower House of Assembly by the Federal Republic of Nigerian Constitution, sometimes the denied to sign and approve the national budget because of the corrupt practices that have eaten deep in to their political career, recently in Nigeria the senators and members house of representative insisted not to sign and approved the 2019 budget because the current government refused to give them illegal gratification as they used to receive from the previous administration.

To support the argument for instance, recently, President Muhammadu Buhari had presented a supplementary budget to the National Assembly on July 18 in which he sought the approval of the lawmakers to fund the 2019 polls. The president, in his letter to the National Assembly, titled, *"Request for Virement and Supplementary 2018 Budget,"* specifically asked the legislature to reallocate part of the N578 billion voted to the projects inserted into the 2018 Appropriation Act by the lawmakers to fund the elections and critical infrastructure.

Moving the motion, the chairman, House Committee on Appropriation, Malam Mustapha Dawaki, recalled that communication from President Buhari for virement in the Appropriation Act, 2018 was read at plenary. He said, *"The House notes that the request was in respect of virement of funds to finance INEC and security agencies toward the preparation for the 2019 General Elections for which no provisions were made in the 2018 Appropriation Act."* The House is aware that the virement has become necessary in order to appropriate funds to enable the relevant agencies to commence preparation toward a free and fair election in 2019 (Isah & Anumba-Khaleel, 2018).

The all reported that 2019 budget there were discrepancies in the budget for the 2019 general election passed by the National Assembly yesterday as the Senate and the House of Representatives approved what appeared to be different figures for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and the five security agencies involved in the polls (Isah & Anumba-Khaleel, 2018).

Amalgamation of the Northern and Southern Protectorate in 1914

According to (Eleniyan, 2016), Lagos colony was added to a southern protectorate in the year 1906 to form one protectorate called the *"Colony of the southern protectorate"* in the year 1914. The aim of Lord Lugard was a unification of both the territory *"Northern and Southern Protectorate"*

He further disclosed that the northern administrators were not happy with the idea of unification, but the southern colonial administrators hold the idea of Lord Lugard of the unification of the two protectorates. It is observed that the mission of Lord Lugard was to accomplish the unification of the two protectorates in a colony, though there was a controversy in Lagos where the idea was criticized by the great number of the politicians and media, the amalgamation of the two protectorates were not interested in another part of the nation. The unification of the protectorates has caused many economic, political issues in the nation from 1914 to date.

However, an amalgamation of the two protectorates has created the problem of favoritism, tribalism, nepotism, religious differences, sectionalism, regionalism among others. These problems since then gave birth to the insecurity of lives and property in the nation. Where judiciary is not judiciously performing their duties because of the problems. For instance, many individuals were innocently put to prison awaiting trial and nothing has been done to that respect. People were suffering for the crime they did not commit. Still, people are shouting “*Young Shall Grow*” who is fooling who? Because of the problems of the insecurity of lives and property everywhere in the nation people are clamoring of the restructuring of the security system, meaning to establish state police in the nation. However, this assumption is of the same view with Pluralism theory which obviously addresses and identifies the authenticity of multiplicity among different ethnic, and cultural groups in the political setting. Thus, the theory suggested for equal opportunity to all interest groups whether large or small to contest and partake, based on their political benefits

A study by Eric, (2016), showcased that the amalgamation of two protectorates to form a new entity which could be in terms of business organizations with different or similar products and services. Politically, it could be a mixture of two or more states, cultures, and civilizations to form a single territory or independent state. It is observed from the above statements that most federal states and confederacies are products of amalgamation.

The 1914 Amalgamation that happened soon after the identification of Nigeria was one of the important instants for colonial government in Africa and an essential for colonial Nigeria. Before this incident, the Nigerian state had been a political unit with several differences which made governance hard. The Northern Protectorate, the Southern Protectorate and the Colony of Lagos all had their distinct system of administration. This regional structure destined diverse rules were appropriate in the Protectorates and in the Colony of Lagos. The Protectorates and the Colony of Lagos were self-autonomous and governing them with different laws showed quite a job. Because of this, the 1914 Amalgamation compound the diverse parts of the country in order to make governance easier for the colonial leaders (Omotayo, 2016).

In a similar view Natufe, (2018), explained that the Northern and Southern protectorates of Nigeria were amalgamated by British Colonial Governor Fredrick Lugard in January 1914. However, quite a lot of Nigerian researchers had spoken on the danger of amalgamating the northern and the southern protectorate. For instance, Sir Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa who became the Prime Minister of Nigeria (1960–1966), in a dialogue in the Northern House of Assembly in 1952, fired the amalgamation of Nigeria by the British Government. He professed as follows: “*that the Southern people who are teeming into the northern region on daily bases in huge numbers are indeed interlopers. We don’t want them and they are not welcome here in the Northern region*”. Since the amalgamation in 1914, the colonial government has been working to make Nigeria into one entity, but then Nigeria is heterogeneous in nature, and the Nigerian people are diverse in every way including religion, custom, language, and aspiration. The fact that we’re all Africans might have led the colonial government in taking the decision of amalgamation (Natufe, 2018).

Importance of the 1914 Amalgamation

The importance of the amalgamation of the two protectorates was placed on the bonding factor that brought an end to colonial administration and brought about the ethnic backbiting among the various interests’ groups. However, Nigeria shows her divergence in religions, tribes, and natural donations hinging on the politics of resource control. For the mere fact that Nigerians we are yet to see ourselves as one entity. That what makes the nation as a pluralist society. Before the end of the colonial administration. The founding father of Yoruba Chief Obafemi Awolowo explained that; “The entity called Nigeria was simply a physical expression; there is no country called Nigeria because he happened to be first Egba man, then a Yoruba man, before being a Nigerian (Eric, 2016 p67).” The insinuation is that his faithfulness and loyalty were formed along that thinking, and this

act repeated itself in 2014 National Conference, where numerous representatives noted that “Nigeria as a nation exists along religious and ethnic divisions, this is because of the pluralistic structure of the country.”

In a similar development, it is understood that the process of amalgamation was destabilized by the perseverance of diverse provincial perceptions on governance between the Southern and Northern regions, and by Nigerian separatists in Lagos. Even though southern colonial administrators greeted unification as an opportunity for grand development, but the Northern counterparts in the Northern region thought that it was harmful to the interests of the areas they managed because of their comparative setback and that it was their responsibility to fight for the development of the southern inspirations and culture in the northern part. On the part of the Southerners were not excited to accept the extension of lawmaking initially meant for the north to the south (Wikipedia, 2018).

It further added that the British economic policy for Africa at the period was started on the trust that if African individuals were carried to hold European development with its importance on law and order, their human and economic possessions would be more efficiently and carefully subjugated to the advantage of all. Though, it was positively and simply believed that the tricky of African financial growth was mainly the problem of rules and regulations (Wikipedia, 2018).

The study found that in the beginning, southern Nigeria was managed by a high commissioner. The first high commissioner was Ralph Moor. That was when Lagos was merged with the rest of the southern part of the nation in 1906, later the high commissioner Walter Egerton was appointed as the Governor of the region. In 1900 the protectorate conceded from the foreign office to the British office, then Ralph Moor became High Commissioner of Southern region and put the foundations of the new administration, his health worsening, so he retired on pension on 1 October 1903. Egerton was then appointed as the governor of Lagos Colony, covers most of the Yoruba domains in the southwest part of the nation in 1903. Later, the colonial office wanted to integrate the Lagos Colony with the protectorate of Southern Nigeria, and in August 1904 also appointed Egerton as High Commissioner for the Southern Nigeria Protectorate. He held both offices until 28 February 1906. On that date, the two protectorates were officially amalgamated and Egerton was chosen as the new governor of the new Colony and Protectorate of Southern Nigeria, he holds office up to 1912. In the new Southern Nigeria, the old Lagos Colony became the Western Jurisdiction, and the former Southern Nigerian Protectorate was divided into a central Province with capital at Warri and an Eastern Province with capital at Calabar.

When his forerunner in the Southern part, Sir Ralph Denham Rayment Moor, resigned, a large part of the southeast of Nigeria was still not under the control of the colonialist. After taking the mantle of leadership of the office, Egerton started his policy of sending out yearly conciliation perambulations, which commonly got the proposal through the risk of force without being required to use power.

Table 1.1 Depicting the Tenure and the Office of the High Commissioners and Governors

Name	Tenure	Office
Sir Ralph Moor	1900-1903	High Commissioner of the Southern Nigeria Protectorate
Sir Walter Egerton	1903-1912	High Commissioner of the Southern Nigeria Protectorate (1903-1906) Governor of the Colony and Protectorate of Southern Nigeria (1906–1912)
Sir Frederick Lugard	1912-1914	Governor of the Colony and Protectorate of Southern Nigeria

Source: Wikipedia (2018).

Problems of the Amalgamation

The British colonial government has amalgamated the northern and the southern protectorates in 1914, the merger has coursed a lot of sets back to the national development, this is because the annexation has led to division among the citizens and created numerous issues that

need to be resolved. These problems include but not limited ethnicity, nepotism, favoritism, religion differences, sectionalism, and regionalism. The unification has caused the endless problem that failed to be curtailed by the Nigerian nationalist, the previous military government, the past and present civilian administrations (Scalia, 1983 & Halliru, 2012).

Effects of Amalgamation of the Northern and Southern Protectorates

The amalgamation of the northern and southern protectorate has led to ethnic and religious conflicts in Nigeria. This has characterized the country with an intense ethno-religious and political conflict, this is, as a result, of a power struggle among its citizens there has been a rise in the level of ethno-religious passion and an extreme sense of religious uprisings all over the nation. A study by Halliru, 2012; Shehu, Osman, & Othman, (2016), noted that religious fundamentalists in Nigeria display unnecessary and illogical enthusiasm to defend their religion and therefore become unhelpful agents of religious disagreement in the nation. The supporters of the three foremost religions, especially Muslims and Christians are at one stage or another prejudiced by extremism to result to division and ferocious hostility across the nation this as a result of the merger of the people of different religion, culture and language barrier.

Ethnicity

The formation of ethnic-regionalism had a substantial influence in Nigerian political ground. Hypothetically, Ake (2000), gratified that, even the creations of political parties, platforms, the scheme of management and campaign approaches were liberated by ethnicity. An ethnic group refers to people who come together to share a common dialectal, with same cultural philosophy and self-identity. These findings are in line with pluralism theory that emphasizes on heterogeneity nature of the country. Current descriptions undertake that the states are neutral in inter-ethnic relations and, thus, can successfully facilitate them. They identify ethnic differences as the product of a struggle for power and affluence among members of integral ethnic groups. Unless and until this struggle is appropriately managed, it tends to explode into violence. It is the duty of the unbiased government to rightly manage the situation (Halliru, 2012).

The study found that the systems of government in Nigeria has failed to address the issue of ethno-religious and political conflicts which arose as a result of the annexation of the northern and southern protectorate. This is as a result of the pluralistic setting of the nation. The system rather than uniting the ethnic nationalities has introduced a lot of contentious programs that have contributed to the increasing occurrence of a fight among the citizens. Regardless of the effort being made by the government and civil society organizations, the traditional rulers and the religious bodies to bring a conducive atmosphere in the country.

Conflict of what so ever type affects human development, it usually touches national amalgamation. The study exposed that the issue of colonialism generated the formation of all disparity in the nation which deters the national unity of the Nigerian population and the civilian government. The study found that this was as a result of the unification of northern and southern Nigeria in 1914, by the colonial masters who declined to consider the geopolitical separation of the differences in ethno-religious, political ideology and cultural background. Therefore, it has become very problematic for the godfathers to manage the provocative postcolonial violence in the nation (Halliru, 2012 & Shehu, 2017).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Firstly, for peaceful democratic governance, therefore, the study recommends that all the three arms of government shall have autonomous power to discharge their constitutional responsibilities. No, any arm shall exercise the powers of the other (separation of power).

Secondly, all the citizens should be treated equally in every part of the nation, this would bring unity and justice among the general populous.

Thirdly, the three arms should work as a watchdog to ensure the principles of check and balance. All the citizens should be abiding by the principle of equality and justice across the country.

Fourthly, to overcome the existing problems there is a need for adequate youth education in the nation, it means if youth properly used can reduce the extent to which people are being used and marginalized, since the power to control and the mind can be reduced.

Fifthly, Good governance and political solutions are most needed in Nigeria. The solution is to have a stable country as a federation of ethnic nations. If these situations exist, the religious, political actors and ethnic nationalities will support all government machinery by living under one unit of diversity, regardless of their tribes, ethnicity or religions.

CONCLUSION

The study concludes that the aim of the amalgamation of the two protectorates was accomplished by the colonial masters, for Nigerians goods not for Nigerians good. The amalgamation has created several issues that need to be addressed, these include; poverty, disunity, religion differences, nepotism, ethnicity, favoritism, regionalism and all sort of divergence among the citizens across the nation. That is why each geo-political zone is clamoring for the post of president from his or her zone, religion, tribe or region. if the nation is united or merged as written in the national constitution? Nonetheless, the nation might have remained together if it clarifies the ethno-religious differences among the citizens. The study also concluded that that the principle of separation of power and check and balances between the three arms of government executive, legislatures and the judiciary is not operating as a system or organized body rather as a different entity, that is operating differently for their personal interest not for the interest of the general populous.

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