

Nigerian Federalism Problems in Prospects

Mustapha Alhaji Ali^{*1}, Fatima Ahmed²

¹Department of Political Science and Administration. Yobe State University, Damaturu. Nigeria.

²Department of Political Science University of Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria.

* Corresponding author: mustaphaalhajali2@gmail.com

Abstract

The paper examined Nigerian federalism problems in prospects. Nigerian as a nation was amalgamated in 1914. The unification of the two protectorates under one canopy has created a problem in power-sharing and resources allocation among the diverse ethnic groups. Certainly, the federal system operating in the Nigerian context has created a lot of problems and prospects because of the heterogeneity nature of the country that unites diverse people under one umbrella. This study is qualitative research, data were obtained through books, journals, newspapers, magazines, reports. These data were thoroughly reviewed to explain the topic under examination. To support this paper the researcher adopted Pluralism theory. This theory by tradition explains the complication and heterogeneity nature of the country. This is because of the diverse ethnic groups and ethno-religious differences that were united under one federating units. The study found that federalism was born to unite people of different religion, ethnicity, culture, and traditions so as to enhance the national inity as well as the economy. But the major problem of Nigerian federalism is power sharing and resources allocation across the regions and states. It is found that under the federal system there are serious problems of majority domination over the minority. These have led to ethno-religious conflicts in the nation because of unequal access to national resources and power sharing among the citizens. To overcome these problems the study recommended that: All the citizens of the confederating units should be treated equally in term of power and resources allocations. To maintain equality and justice among the citizens. The government should adhere to the principles of federal character commission. To minimize the problems of federalism Nigeria should ensure equality and justice in power and resources allocation among its citizen in the federating units.

Keywords: Federalism, Nigerian, Problems, Prospects

ARTICLE INFORMATION

Received: 04 February 2019

Revised: 25 February 2019

Accepted: 10 March 2019

DOI: 10.31580/jei.v6i2.906

© Readers Insight Publication

INTRODUCTION

Federalism has emerged as one of the most preferred forms of government based on its integrative competence to estimate the diverse political life of multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-linguistic societies. Though, in the Nigerian state, the practice of federalism has continued a forbidding frightening because of the twisted nature of the federal system which has led to serious contestations among the integral populations, thus resulting in limitless fiddling and dissolution. The problem Nigeria has had to face is how to save an efficient and effective central government that would help preserve national harmony and allowing free choice for the diversities of the multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-lingual integral parts (Lanre, 2017).

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 include federal, state, and local government. It comprises 36 states and Abuja. It also has 774 local government (Ahmed & Shehu, 2014).

Geographically, Nigeria was divided into two regions namely; the North and South. But, for the political suitability, the nation was sub-divided into six geopolitical zones viz.; South-South, South-West, South-East, North-West, North Central, and North-East. Each of the geopolitical zones comprises of six

states, apart from North-West with seven states, and South-East with five states respectively. Each zone comprises people with similar tradition, fitting the state ethnic groups and in addition have the same background as well as culture (Mohamed and Allah, 2014). This means all the Southern states have common features, so, also the Northern states (Abdulwali, 2017).

Nigeria's federalism firstly arose as an imposition by the British government. Thought, despite its limitations, it remained the sole and feasible political resolution to the Nigerian state as a united political entity (Aliyu & Isa, 2018). Nigeria as a nation with large and heterogeneous population, geographical, cultural, political and religious settings and organizations were amalgamated by His then Majesty's Government thereby sealing a formation of a new country. However, the nation was surrounded by various areas around the River Niger that prior to January 1914 existed as empires, caliphate, kingdoms, republican and small independent and or stateless societies became formally united and so areas of the North and South of River Niger became unified as a nation (Aliyu & Isa, 2018).

The origins of Nigeria's federalism lie not in the pluralities of economic and geographic regions or of ethnic nationalities, but in the plurality of colonial administrative traditions imposed by the British. Different administrative traditions were especially evident in the Northern and Southern Regions of Nigeria. These traditions produced regional rivalry and conflict that were



entrenched in the Nigerian polity by the processes of consolidation and nation-building (Majekodunmi, 2015:107).

In a related development a study by Adigwe (1974), disclosed that Nigerian federalism was created by the British administration. Although, before the advent of British colonial masters, the area now call Nigeria was occupied by individuals who belonged to dissimilar kingdoms, empires, and societies, which were customarily managed. However, these ethnic groups were characterized by conflict and little supports or cooperation. Besides, these immoralities as ritual, flesh-eating, killing, and individual's assassination were widespread in part of the nation (Adigwe, 1974).

Conversely, Federalism represents a unique form of governmental arrangement. This is because, it involves the organization of the state in such manner as to promote unity while at the same time preserving existing diversities within an overarching national entity (Majekodunmi, 2015).

A study by Findlay (2018) and Silas (2018), disclosed that Nigeria comprises more than 300 ethnic groups and over 500 Spoken Languages, the official Language is English. Similarly, Ojo (2009), observed that Nigeria is one of the most culturally diverse nations in the globe with more than 250 ethnic groups, some of which are larger than several sovereign states of modern Africa. Nigeria, like many other nations branded by socio-economic, cultural, ethnolinguistics, and political heterogeneities, it started to adopt federal system from October 1954, about forty years later when the British colonial masters together with (in addition to) the nationalists and politicians constitutionally introduced a federal system in order to accommodate people of different background, culture, religion, ethnicity among others. It is observed that the federal system of administration has being in operation since then except for a short period of Ironsi's military regime January-July 1966. The operation of this system is nevertheless, not without some level of achievement and limitations (Aliyu & Isah, 2018).

Nigeria been a sovereign nation, faces many challenges, the greatest impediment to the nascent democracy is the persistent insecurity of lives and property, as showed by the flood of political assassinations, religious conflicts and federalism, armed robbery attacks, coupled with the seeming powerlessness of security agencies to knob felonious acts (Ekpu, & Uhumwuangho, 2012). Still, the situation is deteriorated as a result of high and increasing number of unemployed youths in the country some of whom are ready recruits for criminal activities as well as the problem of majority - minority domination (Ekpu & Uhumwuangho, 2012; Tribune, 2002). These reports were from the editorial observation in a national daily in Nigeria indeed, exemplifies the central argument of this study, the aim of which is to analyze Nigerian federalism problems and prospects. And to maintain the existing discussion on sustainable development and security which is a current issue in Nigeria and Africa at large.

Federalism represents an exclusive form of governmental arrangement. This is because, it has to do with the organization of the state in such way that would promote unity and at the same time to preserve the existing differences within a predominant national entity (Majekodunmi, 2013).

The origins of Nigeria's federalism lie on the plurality of colonial administrative traditions imposed by the British government. But not in the pluralities of economic and geographic regions or of ethnic nationalities. Different administrative traditions were especially evident in the country.

These traditions shaped regional rivalry and conflict that were rooted in Nigerian society by the processes of alliance and nation-building. After independence, this regional opposition became the basis for causing conflicts between people of the different regions, region, because of the culture economy and ethnicity. In efforts to minimize this rivalry under the federal system, more states were created to accommodate numerous group interests (Majekodunmi, 2013).

However, the separating effects of ethnic-regional federalism were directly expressed in quite a lot of other political evils that attacked Nigeria in the sixties, as well as:

The 1962 declaration of a state of emergency in the Western region; the bitter ethnic-regional dispute over the 1962-63 census; the 1964 federal election crisis; the 1965 western election disaster; the ultimate takeover of the First Nigerian Democratic Republic in 1966 after a bloody ethnic-military coup; the complete disintegration and politicization of the military formation along ethnic- regional background; the struggled secession of the Eastern region, under the leadership of its Igbo military governor, Odumegwu Ojukwu, as the independent Republic of Biafra; and, the eventual outbreak of the 30-month civil war, which claimed an estimated one million lives, mainly in the ill-fated Biafra (Osaghae & Suberu, 2005:18).

Perhaps, the civil war could have been prevented if the country's Igbo first military head of state, General Aguiyi-Ironsi, had reorganized the federation, for instance, founding new sub-federal regional units for Nigeria's agitated minorities in the Northern and Southern regions. But unfortunately, Ironsi's unsupported abolition of federalism through the amalgamation decree of May 1966 was generally understood as an attempt to replace Northern dominion under the uneven regional federalism with Igbo domination under an even more hateful unitary system.

This Decree instantly triggered anti-Igbo killings in the North, which were followed by the killing of numerous Igbo soldiers (including Ironsi himself) in the counter-coup of July 1966, and an even more massive round of anti-Igbo murders in the North in September 1966. The May-September 1966 exterminations of thousands of Igbos in the Northern region, and the attendant arrival of Igbo migrants back into the Eastern part of the nation, more than any other single factor, engendered popular Igbo support for the retreat (Osaghae & Suberu, 2005).

The amalgamation of the Northern and Southern region is surrounded with challenges among people of different ethno-religious groups. Nigerian Dailies reported that over 80 protesters for the secession of the Biafran region from Nigeria have been arrested, detained and imprisoned this was because of resources and power allocation between the Northern and Southern regions (Vanguard News, 2016).

However, on 28-29, November, 2008 there was a serious religious crises between the Muslims and the Christians over the results of a local election, these was as a result of uniting people of different background under one federating unit, this culminated into conflict because of power and resources allocation among the religious groups (AFP., 2008).

Similarly, General Alkali had got missing on the 3, September 2018 while travelling from Abuja to Bauchi via Jos. After a series of a security investigation, his car was recovered from Dura-DU Pon on 29, Sept. 2018 and the remains of the late retired senior military officer were eventually discovered on the 31 in Guchwet village of Shen district in Jos LGA in plateau state (Sadiq, 2019).

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The federal system of government was set up for the purpose of national unity in the plural society like Nigeria and to preserve the distinct social identities valued by its constituent parts. Moreover, the implementation of the federal system in the Nigerian context and Nigeria's political system has continued to work with minimum unity and diversity. Competition basically prompted by cultural common distrust progressively deteriorates the stuff of Nigerian Authority (Ola, 1995).

Essentially, Nigeria is a plural society, its constituent groups are detached from each other by substantial differences of



ethnicity, language, cultures, and traditions. Nigeria formed differences in character, outlook, and attitudes, faced with the problems of federalism. Nigeria accepted federalism as a means of accomplishing its much-needed goal of national unity among people of different religion, ethnicity, and culture. In essence, the federalism so adopted is expected to lessen the massively destructive inter-ethnic competition and tension, alleviate the usually assumed fear of majority and minority domination, and bringing government closer to the people and give these diverse groups more opportunities, thereby integrating the country (Wheare, 1963).

The central argument is that the federal system of government was set up to unite people with different culture, religion, languages, education background. The unification has resulted in unequal power sharing and resources allocation among the general populous across the nation. Especially between the majority and minority ethnic groups. The problem of inequality in power and resources allocation among the citizens has created a wide gap. This is because the ethnic majority has dominated the few minorities in all sphere of life in the country. Especially in the power and resources allocation. The domination of some state regions as well as the minority ethnic groups has created a wide vacuum which leads to ethno religious conflict across the nation. Based on this, the paper examined Nigerian Federalism Problems in Prospects. The Objectives of the study are,

- 1 To examine why Nigeria, adopt a federal system of government
- 2 To explore the prospect of Nigerian federalism

METHODOLOGY

This paper is qualitative in outlook. Data were generated through secondary sources of data collection. In preparing this article several books, journal articles, newspapers, and magazines were systematically reviewed and discussed the case under investigation (Creswell, 2009; Othman, 2018).

Research Design

Considering the nature of the topic this study uses a case study approach because this approach helps the scholar to understand the depth case or cases under investigation. Provides an in-depth understanding of a case or cases under examination. It also assists in Developing an in-depth explanation and examination of a case (Creswell, 2009;(Creswell, 2008; Othman, 2018).

Pluralism Theory

Considering the heterogeneity nature of the country, the study adopts Pluralism theory in explaining or supporting the topic under study. The theory traditionally explained the complexity and heterogeneity nature of the nation. As well as the diverse ethnic groups and ethno-religious differences in the federating units. Political actions in modern democratic and federating states of the country. It is also primarily on the standpoint that citizens are organized under one federating units of the nation. To work together as one entity and protects the interest of all citizens. It believes that political power and resources should be shared equally to secure the genuine welfares of the citizens and none of these groups should be dominated by the other groups in the federating units (Miller, 1983).

The first strength of this theory is that it clearly discourses and recognizes the reality of diversity among different groups in the federating units in the nation. Therefore, the theory suggested for equal power and resources allocation as well as equal opportunities to all citizens whether minority or majority to have equal access to power and resources in the nation, based

on their political interests. This is because the government is meant to guard them to ensure that they get the same treatment at all level of power and resources allocation. Secondly, the strength of pluralism theory is that it inspires minority groups to grow their plans by maintaining their political ambitions. The assumption of the theory centered on unity among the diverse ethno-religious groups. And that the government should try to overcome existing problems in the federating units by mediating all conflicts between the various regions, states, and the interest groups. Therefore, the theory leads to averting power domination or over-concentration of power in the hands of few states or in the hands of some regions this is to ensure the principles of equality through check and balance system in the federating units (Arif Rohman, 2013; Miller, 1983; Self, 1985).

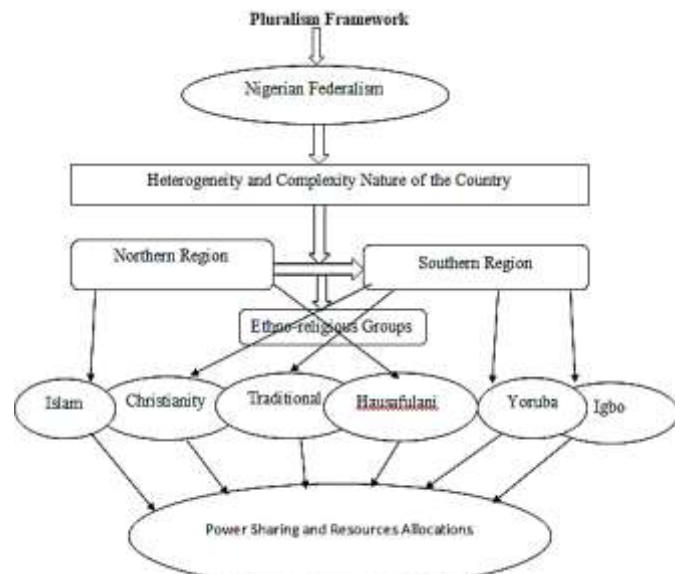


Figure: 1.1: Pluralism Framework
Sources: Researcher (2019)

The above framework depicts the complexity of Nigeria and Nigerians. This framework explains the complexity and heterogeneity nature of the country under investigation. This is because the paper emphasized on the federal system problem in prospects. Looking at the nature of the topic and the available literature the study found that the major problem of the Nigerian federalism is the heterogeneity and complexity nature of the nation as a result of numerous individuals which were unified under one government. This includes people of different religion, ethnicity, culture, geography, and history. However, the unification of these set of the individual has led to a series of violence and non-violence crises among the various ethno-religious groups across the nation, because of majority and minority domination and inequality in power and resources allocation. As a result of the unification of people of different religion, ethnic groups and culture, and traditions. These people of different background compete in sharing power and resources allocation among themselves. This unhealthy competition leads to conflict among these religions and ethnic groups, because of the differences in culture and tradition. All the above problems resulted from the amalgamation of the two regions under system call federal system.

Literature and Concepts of Federalism

Federalism originated from Latin word foedus referring to a treaty or an agreement. It is still, subjected to various interpretations and definitions by scholars, political thinkers, and scientists (Oyovbaire, 1979). He further has maintained that federalism is a two-tiered but coordinate structure resulting



from a shifting interplay of societal conflicts, consensus, and resources exploitation and allocations (Oyovbaire, 1979). By this, federalism represents a flexible compromise between and among forces of unity and consensus on which fundamental agreements exist with diversities over certain issues that relate to culture, geography, and religion.

Federalism, a system which Nigeria operates constitutionally for over sixty-five (65) years refers to the plan of government with more than one level tier of government, each with diverse taxing authorities, expenses and responsibilities which in Nigeria, comprises of three levels (Federal/Central, 36 States and 768 Local Government) of the federation (Shehu, 2017:239).

A study by Fatile and Adejuwon (2009), Majekodunmi (2015) sees federalism as a system of governance is practical, lively, serviceable and developing. It can only struggle on discussion, negotiation, compromise, bargaining, and agreement between the integral governments. It grows under a system of support and interdependence.

Similarly, a study by Wheare (1963), noted that the discussion of modern federalism seems to have started in the work of Kenneth C. W who saw federalism as a constitutional arrangement which divides the lawmaking powers and functions between two levels of government in such a way that each within its individual spheres of authority and capability, is independent and organize.

Nigerian Federalism

Nigerian comprised of a diverse group of people coming from different ethnic groups, and the rivalry between them can become a serious problem. In Nigeria, we see that different group of people from different geopolitical regions seek power, and sometimes this can lead to disagreement and ethnic conflict the various ethnic and religious groups. We can consider the lack of cohesion and inability of parties to accept defeat in order to promote national unity as one of the major reasons for ethnic rivalry in the Nigerian context (Diana, 2019).

Features of Federalism

- Presences of constituent parts called Republics, States Local Governments areas etc.
- There is a relationship between the federal, states and local governments, this relationship is governed by the Federal Constitution.
- Foreign policies are conducted by the federal government on behalf of the state and local government.
- The bicameral structure of the federal parliament where one is the organ of the federal government and the other is representing the interests of the federation.
- The states and local government may issue their own Constitution, decree and other normative-legal acts that will be legal in their territory with the Federal Constitution and federal laws.
- Federation has their own flags, emblem, anthems and all other signs of the state, except state sovereignty.

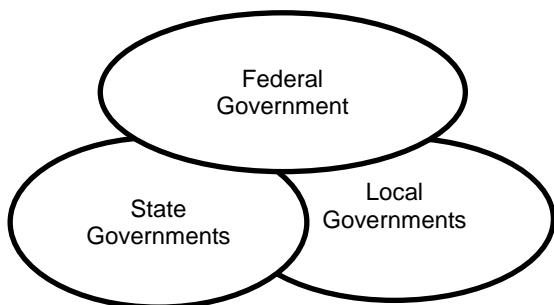


Figure.2: Relationship between the Three Tiers of Government
Sources: Researcher (2019)

From the above Figure: 1.2 from the above figure it is noted that Nigeria is operating three tiers of government namely; the federal, state and local government. All these were meant to bring government closer to the people and also to reduce the complexity and minority and majority domination in the country. It is understood that federation is a system of government adopted to enhance national integration in Nigeria; it is also a form of government that defines the relationship between component parts federal, states and local governments which supposed to have the potential for integrating diverse and cultural societies. The ethno-religious groups engage in political struggle for social classes (Wheare, 1963).

Principles of Federal Character Commission

Federal Character Commission was established in 1996, to implement the federal character principles, which aim at “ensuring free, fair and equitable distribution of positions: socio-economic amenities; and infrastructural services among the federating unit of the nation”. It’s obviously established to serve as a watchdog of government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) in ensuring an even distribution of workforce that reflects ethnic diversity and the geopolitical divides of the country. And to make sure that these socio-economic amenities and development infrastructure are shared equally among the citizens in the nation (FCC, 2018).

Furthermore, it is observed by FCC (2018), that Federal Character had defined the nation into federal, state and local government levels as channels of distribution to the federating units for ease implementation. Allocation at the national level, this would be shared based on the 36 State and Abuja or the six Geo-political Zones or Northern and Southern regions; depending on the available resources. At the state level, the federating units shall be the number of the Local government in the State or three Senatorial districts within the state. While the federating units at the local government level shall be the electoral wards.

Considering the heterogeneous nature of Nigeria, that comprises many individuals of a different background. Different researchers have at various times given diverse clarification as to the meaning of the term Federal Character (Ekpu, & Uhumwuangho, 2012). However, Federal Character refers to “the policy of equity in the representation of all sections of the country in government bureaucracies (Omo-Omoruyi, 1995)”.

Although, this principle is only applicable in: federal appointments and promotions and retrenchment, admissions and scholarships, contracts award, citing of projects, agricultural, industrial academic and research institutions, the army, sports and games, especially the most highly priced football team selection and field of play (Ekpu, Christopher & Uhumwuangho, 2012; Omo-Omoruyi, 1995: 123).

From the above, therefore, it is obvious that the principle of federal character has not lived up to expectation, yet it is still entrenched in our Nigerian Constitution. A study by Oyovbaire (1979), revealed that the administration of General Sani Abacha recognized the limitations of the federal character principles on assumption of office. This was why his administration set up the Federal Character Commission to review the principle of the federal character and identify its limitation (Oyovbaire, 1989).

Diamond confesses that the present postulation that the constitutional obligation for reflecting the federal character of the country in national affairs needs the representation of every state in federating bodies. Even in the situation where it may be hard to find an appropriate knowledgeable individual from every state, is unwieldy (Suberu, 1988)



Problems of Federalism

A study by (Lincoln & Lincoln, 2016), observed that the 1999 general elections gave little on federalism itself. Instead, the issue was handled through the prism of ethnicity. The argument on federalism since 1998 has positioned mostly on the Yoruba demand

For a "power shift." This is because from history it is understood that the Southern part has provided only three Nigerian head of state out eleven heads of state. He further explains that the denial of Chief MKO Abiola's order, his arrest and detention, and the subsequent virtual war Abacha waged on the Southwest produced both the demand and the expectation that power in Nigeria "shift" to the South.

But power shift rapidly became an umbrella concept given different meanings by different groups. For the Southwest, "rotation" meant only one thing: The next president must come from the Southwest. The alternative, as articulated by such Yoruba cultural and political associations as Afenifere, decisively needed delicacy.

Similarly, a study by Uhumwuangho and Epelle (2007), observed that ethnic pressure in Nigeria resulted because of the unequal distribution of power and resources among the citizenry. This is because those individuals who are marginalized from the power and resources arrangement and allocation were also clamoring for power and equal resources allocation. They believe it is essential to cooperate with their ethnic groups which will provide them with the necessary services and good ground for opposing with others for resources and against domination by the dominant ethnic groups. This can intensify or deteriorate and lead to conflict among the citizens. In addition to this, it is understood that ethnic politics has become the order of the day as it is believed that a merger with other ethnic groups gives room for access to power and resources easily.

Further study by Awa (1976) and Uhumwuangho and Epelle (2007), reveals that power distribution is an unpredictable problem which if not appropriately overcome would lead to numerous forms of disasters which are certain to crop up. It is clearly observed that Nigeria has not been put on this principle of equal power and resources distribution among the individual in the nation. This has resulted in intensifying ethno religious tension, mutual mistrust among ethnic groups, majority/minority problem, and appeal for an answer to the National questions

Vision and Mission of Nigerian Federalism

Federalism is a system of government where power is been shared between the state, local and federal government. And it is meant to unite people in a society who are varied culturally, ethnically, religiously, and geographically. Given this, it is necessary that where there is the functional government in place, it must endeavour to provide its people with sufficiently and equitably distribute resource and powers among these different groups (Awa, 1976). But in the Nigerian context, there are cases where governments violated the principle of federalism, of resources and power allocation among its citizens, it is noted that federal system in Nigeria is in theory not in practice. Though, Nigeria can be said to be operating the federal system of government, whereas, in actual sense, the nation is operating based on the unitary system. Thus, the problem with federalism in Nigeria is the mixture of this clause, particularly as it has to do with power and resource distribution (Awa, 1976).

- Economic Federalism: Federalism if properly applied will lead to economic development in the country. The idea of a federal system is to accomplish economic development and to establish an effective administration

- Federalism leads to stability in the economy and helps in the elimination of any form of crises that may occur because of ethnic and religion competition.
- Federalism brings political stability, it also helps in promoting unity and bring government closer to the people.
- Federalism help in uniting people of different culture and traditions in the country.
- It was established from the knowledge of peaceful coexistence among the people, federalism brings firmness, unity and promotes national integration.
- Federalism is all about national unity, and it creates unity and unites the peoples of the different ethnic and religious group under one government.
- Federalism helps in removing the problems of separation among the various ethnic and religious groups.
- It again helps in minimizing the problem of majority and minority domination in the nation.
- Removing the problem of unequal distribution of national resources: with the proper application of the federalism, the problem of unequal distribution of national resources, the budgetary allocation will be removed.

Hopes for Nigerian Federalism

It is, indeed, very instructive that 59 years after independence, the question of the concept, scope, content, and direction of Nigerian Federalism has become even more controversial than it was in the pre-independence constitutional conferences. At every turn in national history, most Nigerians have consciously and constantly demanded a true federal structure to accommodate their acclaimed diversities (Udenwa, 2005).

From the available article reviewed it is understood that there are numerous complicating issues that Nigeria as a federal state is encountering, however, the nation is still often considered as a pioneer and an example in Africa in the use of power-sharing strategies and practices to promote inter-ethnic comprehensiveness, or dishearten regional, ethno religious imbalance and prejudice, in power allocation as well as decision making processes (Majekodunmi, 2015; Suberu, 1990). Furthermore, Suberu (1990), disclosed that from the above-mentioned weaknesses of the Nigerian federal system, a new social agreement needs to be negotiated between the state and civil society organization to look into this weakness.

From the above assertions, it is noted that these weaknesses which are reckoned above constitute the efforts of Nigerian federalism, which are extremely ignitable and bear centrifugal predispositions. It is also keen anticipation and truthful belief of the researchers that in order to preserve the federal unity, and to encourage unified existence in all consequences, enhance peace, serenity, and security, all key officers involved in the system must yarn softly, and be objective, rational, unselfish, generous and establish the spirit of giving and take (Idada, 2004).

In addition to the above Majekodunmi (2015), is of the opinion that the new social compact should bring together key Nigerian actors and the international community to work together for democratic consolidation and development in the country. Different from the preceding treaties, which were intra-elite, the new pact should be broad-based so that people can recognize it and claim it as their own. He then expressed that this scheme would produce, in Nigerians, the spirit of agreement and promise present in the Americans in 1787 when their union was counterfeit.

FINDINGS

- The research found that ethno-religious pressure in Nigeria is as a result of the unequal distribution of power and



resources among the citizenry. It is noted that those persons who are relegated from the power and resources and allocation were also demanding for equal power and resources allocation.

- The study found that Federalism signifies a distinctive form of governmental organization. It involves the organization of the state in such a way as to uphold unity and at the same time maintaining the existing multiplicities within an overarching national entity.
- Federalism in Africa helps in power-sharing plans and practices to uphold inter-ethnic inclusiveness, or discourage regional, ethno religious inequity and bigotry, in power allocation and decision making processes.
- The research found that the amalgamation of people of the different background has led to a series of non crises among the various ethno-religious group, because of disparity in power and resources control.
- The study found that power distribution is a volatile problem which if not properly control would lead to various forms of catastrophes in the nation.
- The unification of people of different religion, language, culture, geography, and history has led to the supremacy over some minority by the majority groups especially in power sharing and resources allocation
- The amalgamation of the two regions has contributed to dominating some state as well as the minority ethno-religious groups across the states.
- The study found that over 80 demonstrators for the separation of the Biafran region from Nigeria have been detained, arrested and confined.

Power and Resources Control

According to (Adamolekun, 2018) the sharing and allocation of responsibilities would be reliable with the decentralized federal system and would follow closely the provisions in the 1954 and 1960 Federal Republic of Nigeria Constitution a short exclusive federal list as well as national defense, the macroeconomy, and foreign affairs; joint responsibility in respect of some crucial functions that are presently allocated completely to the federal government precisely, "internal security and policing"; and main obligation of the sub-national government in line with some roles in the Second Scheduled of the 1999 Nigerian Constitutions.

He then explains that the failure of the National Assembly to take in the delegation of power in the planned Constitutional amendment that is now being considered by the State House of Assembly proposes that continuous attachment to over-concentration of power is not only the level of military politicians. In condition, it would make famous sense for citizens in all geopolitical zones to make a pledge to the Constitutional amendment on decentralization a litmus test for the aspirant in the coming 2019 general election: Legislators at the state and national levels as well as Governors and the President.

He then observed that:

It is only rational that the current allocation percentages applied to the Federation Account should reflect the projected allocation of responsibilities. He, therefore, proposed a 35:65 sharing ration, that is 35% for the central government and 65% for the government of the federating units (Adamolekun, 2018).

This is to ensure equal power and resources allocations among all the federating units. At a time. A study by Shehu (2017), reveals that Nigeria operated unitary arrangement with a central government that was constitutionally powerful in fiscal matters. However, with the constitutional creation of three regions in 1946, the fiscal responsibilities of the federal government were taken over by the regions. He added that: "by 1947 there were constitutionally two main sources of revenue

for the regional governments as Declared and Non Declared Revenue generated from within the regions and grants from the central revenue (Shehu, 2017:239)". Despite the forced plan as expressed by the elites, the organized dysfunction has resulted in a sequence of vehement, exaggerated and upsetting inter-ethnic regional hostility, expressing the spirit of the discussion (Majekodunmi, 2015).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The study recommended that the current government of President Muhammadu Buhari fight these corrupt acts because Nigerians can no longer afford to withstand and watch while brazen, mindless and feckless official corrupt activities.
- The government should provide a conducive political atmosphere to curtail political instability, religious strife, and rudderless administration, flagrant wastefulness, tribalism, maladministration, and administrative lapses, overloaded judiciary, bloated, corrupt and unwieldy civil service, and unbelievable personal greed.
- The government in power should consider the marginalized regions or state in power and resources allocation in the federating units, by given special consideration to bridge the existing gap between the regions or states.
- The government should make sure it demoralize society and refute any advances the country have made so far.
- To overcome these problems of federalism in the Nigerian context the present administration of President Muhammadu Buhari should harness all the administrative, political and military resources at its disposal to ensure that there is sustainable development in African nations been the Chairman of ECOWAS.
- President Muhammadu Buhari has been the Chairman of ECOWAS should halt this perennial bloody and federalism contention that clearly stands out in traumatized countries in and African in general.
- Possibly the sole and most significant factor of the future of Nigerian federalism is the rule of law.
- To maintain equality among all the citizens of the confederating units, the federal government should adhere to the principles of federal character commission.
- To lessen the problems in power and resources allocation in the federating units, the government should audit all the activities of the federal character commission, on quarterly or yearly bases.
- To minimize the problems of federalism the federal government of Nigeria should ensure equality and justice in power and resources allocation among its citizen in the federating units

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the spirit of true federalism is to unite all the states and the regions in the country. And to give each state or region nationally significant independence to manage its affairs at the states and regions. Nigerian federalism centered essentially on the need to understand the basis of true federalism of power sharing and resource control. This arrangement is in line with the principles of federalism. Though the system is attributed by conflict in power-sharing and resources allocation. This has created a series of debate among the individuals in the nation. This debate is old, obsessive and questionable. The study concluded that diversities among individuals is natural, virtue and a means of collective benefits for societal progress as obtained in most federal states across the world, but in Nigeria, it has resulted to slow and poor planning, decisions making and implementation, unnecessary societal divisions, and particularistic feelings. The



instruments of attaining state unity and development as well as the state apparatus have been bastardized. The paper further concluded that Nigeria sovereign nation, more than anything else, the greatest impediment to the federal system and nascent democracy is the persistent uncertainty of lives and property, as demonstrated by the spate of armed robbery attacks, political assassinations, religious conflicts and federalism coupled with the seeming helplessness of security agencies to handle criminal acts which arose as a result of uniting people of different culture, region and languages (Uhunmwangho and Epelle, 2011). This state is worsened by the cumulative number of jobless Nigerians some of whom are recruited for illicit actions.

Reference:

- Abdulwali, Y. (2017). List of Geopolitical Zones in Nigeria. <https://www.dailytrust.com.ng>. Daily Trust.
- Adamolekun, L. (2018). Nigeria's future: Devolve or die. Vanguard.
- Adigwe, F. (1974). Essentials of Government of West Africa, Ibadan: Oxford University Press.
- AFP. (2008). "Nigeria: Jos Riots – Death Toll Hits 400: witnesses". Archived from the original on 3 December 2008. Retrieved 30 November 2008.
- Ahmed, M., & Shehu, M. I. (2014). Democracy and Its Adoption in Nigeria : Western Liberal or Indigenous Option, 5, 63–68.
- Ali, A. M., Zakuan, A. A. U. A., & Mohammad, B. Z. (2018). Northern Nigerian Women Participation in Trade Union Movement: Impediments and Solutions. Journal of Humanities and Cultures Studies R&D, 4. Retrieved from <https://www.jsrd-humanities.com>
- Aliyu, A. A. & Isah, S. M. (2018). Nigerian federalism and national development: pursuit, prospects, and impediments to unity and nation building department of general studies, federal polytechnic, Bauchi-Nigeria bei... Conference Paper, 1–15.
- Arif R. (2013). The Strengths and Weakness of Pluralism Theory. Kompasiana, 3, 3(217), 1–2. <https://doi.org/10.1299/jsme1958.26.1146>
- Awa, E. O. (1976). Issues in Federalism, Benin City, Ethiope Publishing Corporation.
- Creswell, J. (2008). Educational research: Planning, conducting, & evaluating quantitative & qualitative research. Pearson International Edition. Dele,
- Creswell J.W. (2009). Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches. London SAGE Publication, Incorporated.
- Diana, I. (2019). Major features of federalism in Nigeria. NAIL.COM.
- Ekpu, C. & Sunday O. U. (2012). Federalism: Problems and Prospects of Power Distribution in Nigeria. Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa, 14(4), 117–130.
- Fatile, J.O, and Adejuwon, K. (2009). Intergovernmental Relations in Nigeria: An Appraisal of the Involvement of Local Government, The Constitution. A Journal of constitutional development, 8(3).
- FCC. (2018). Federal Character Commission on Nigeria.
- Idada, W. (2004). The Travails of Nigerian Federalism: An Appraisal Seminar Paper at the Department of Public Administration, Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State.
- John W. C. (2009). Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches.
- Justin F. (2018). Largest Ethnic Groups In Nigeria. World atlas.
- Janre, O. (2017). Federalism in Nigeria – Problems , Prospects and the Imperative of Restructuring. International Journal Advances in Social Science and Humanities, 5(8), 40–52.
- Lincoln, J., & Lincoln, J. (2016). The "Persistent" Federation: Nigeria and It's Federal Future. A Journal of Opinion, 27(1), 17–20.
- Majekodunmi, A. (2013). Godfatherism and Political Conflicts in Nigeria : The Fourth Republic in Perspective. International Journal of Management and Social Sciences Research, 2(7), 70–75.
- Majekodunmi, A. (2015). Federalism in Nigeria : the Past , Current Peril and. Journal of Policy and Development Studies Vol., 9(2), 107–120.
- Miller, N. R. (1983). 'Pluralism and social choice', The American Political. Science Review, 77(3), 734–747.
- Mohamed, A., & Allah, H. (2014). The Role of the Nigerian Labour Movement in the Democratic Transformation. African Perspectives, 12(41), 30–38.
- Nigerian Tribune. (2002). Editorial Comment, Three Years of Democracy. Nigerian Tribune, pp. 1–10.
- Ojo, E. (2009). Federalism and the search for national integration in Nigeria. African Journal of Political Science and International Relations, 3(9), 384–395.
- Ola R.F. (1995). Nigerian Political System: Inputs, Outputs, and Environment, Benin City, Ambik Press.
- Omo-Omoruyi O. (1995). Representation in Federal (Plural) System: A Comparative View in Akinyemi (ed) Readings in Federalism, Ibadan, Heinemann Educational Books Ltd.,
- Osaghae, E. E., & Suberu, R. T. (2005). A History of Identities , Violence , and Stability in Nigeria. CRISE Working Paper Series, 1(6), 1–27.
- Oyovbaire, S. E. (1979). The Theory of Federation: A Critical Appraisal. Nigerian Journal of Political Science. Zaria: Ahmadu Bello University.
- Rotimi T. S. (1988). Federalism and Nigerian's Political Future: A Comment, 87(348), 431–439.
- Sadiq, L., J. (2019). Gen. Alkali: 20 granted bail, court to rule on others in January. <https://www.dailytrust.com.ng>. Daily Trust.
- Self, P. (1985). 'The pluralist state', Political Theories of Modern Government: Its role and reform.
- Shehu, M. I. (2017). Resource control and allocation in Nigerian federalism: the oil dilemma, 7(3), 237–251.
- Silas O. (2018). Ethnic groups in Nigeria. <https://minorityrights.org/country/nigeria/>
- Suberu RT. (1990). Federalism and Political Instability in Nigeria" Plural Society. (Vol. 19).
- Udenwa, A. (2005). Nigeria: The Future of Nigeria's Federalism. Vanguard.
- Uhunmwangho, S.O. and Epelle, A. (2007). Corruption and The Nigerian State: The Relevance of ICPC and EFCC In The War Against The Scourge, Babcock Oshogbo. Journal of Management and Social Sciences, 6(1).
- Uhunmwangho, S.O. and Epelle, A. (2011). Challenges and Solutions to Ethno-Religious Conflicts in Nigeria: Case Study of Jos Crises, Pennsylvania. Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa, 13(5).
- UNDESA. (2018). United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs: Population Division; Countrymeters.
- Vanguard News. (2016). "Biafra will not stand, Buhari vows". vanguardngr.com. 6 Retrieved 22 April 2018. Vanguard News.
- Wheare, K. C. (1963). Federal Government. New York, Oxford University Press.
- Zaleha, O. (2018). Important things about Qualitative Research.

