

## FEDERALISM AND RESOURCE CONTROL: A PANACEA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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### Abstract

*The Research is on federalism and resource control: A panacea for sustainable development in Nigeria. This study therefore is set out to examine the relationship between resource control and sustainable development in a federal state. The main essence is to bring to far the interconnected and interrelatedness of the two variables and how achievement of peaceful coexistence, political stability and sustainable development will be made easy in Nigeria. The theoretical framework adopted is the game theory and data collection was sourced from the secondary sources. Findings were made, revealing that in a true federal practiced system of government, component states are meant to harness their own resources and pay a certain percentage to the central government, which was the practice in Nigeria during the regional government era that was truncated by the military. Moreover, findings equally revealed that Nigeria's oil economy has resulted to a high rate of unemployment in the country because almost all the citizens are based on petro Naira. The diversification is not eminent enough to employ a good percentage of the jobless youth. Also, that resource control conflictual agitations have destroyed Nigeria's economic pace of development and caused instability in the polity which have, in the end, resulted to unsustainable development in the entire Nigerian state. This research paper therefore proffer that true federalism should be practiced by Nigerian government, state should have the constitutional right to manage and control their endowed resources and pay a stipulated percentage to the federal purse, federal government should from time to time intervene to render aids and technical assistance to any state that is in dare need, etc. these will help to maintain peaceful coexistence and accelerate the achievement of sustainable development in Nigeria.*

**Keywords:** *Federalism, Resource Control, Political Instability and Sustainable Development.*

### Introduction

In a federal system of government there is a constituted degree of power sharing right to generate revenues through taxation as to enable each level of government to carry out their functions and responsibilities in their several of jurisdiction as stipulated by the constitution. In this regard, states are meant to manage and control their various and different natural endowed resources and pay a certain percentage to the central government purse. To this extent, the states are more economically endowed and there are competitions among them, while the federal government is in-charge of, mostly on, international affairs and the armies which are financed with the stipulated percentage states are meant to remit to the federal government. Implying that, there is no concentration of power at the centre rather, the federal government is concerned with its own matters without interfering on states affairs.

However, when the reverse becomes the case, there is bound to be problem, more especially, when there seems to be cheating or neglect of any part of the country. To the extent where

political and economic powers are concentrated at the central government, it is no longer a federal practice but a unitary one. In the ease of Nigeria, the Niger Delta States are seen to be the producers of oil which is the major source of revenue and survival in Nigeria but, are marginalized and are in a state of underdevelopment. This situation has culminated to series of conflictual agitations and militant activities that disrupts the economic growth of the Nigerian states.

Interestingly, in the early face of Nigerian federalism between 1954 to 1966, both political and economic powers were properly shared. In a situation where the various region were managing and controlling their natural endowed resources such as palm produce, ground nuts and cocoa of the Eastern, Northern and Western regions respectively, which they did pay a stipulated percentage to the centre until the out brake of the Nigerian Civil War.

Finally, during the Nigerian Civil War that ended in 1970, the Nigerian military then bastardized the

regions by creating twelve states and reversed the federal formula to a unitary kind of practice at the discovery of oil at Oloibiri then in the Eastern region. The reversal resulted to the federal government taking over control of the oil production and resort to paying a derivative percentage to the oil producing states of the Niger Delta just as Decree 4 appropriated all lands to the control of the federal government. In the end, this has retard the competitive tempo that had existed during the regional period instead of spurning states to concentrate on harnessing their own resources rather than depending on oil economy alone. Hence, this study will illuminate the dividends derivable when true federalism is practiced and states control and manage their natural resources as it ought to and remit a stipulated percentage to the centre accordingly.

### **Theoretical Framework**

In this study the theory applied is the Games Theory, which has branches of theories such as bargaining theory and decision theory to be specific. The bargaining theory is concerned with a discipline ploy of reaching an agreement and understanding between parties over a product or resources. While the decision theory is basically a matter of alternative optional choice of decision over loss or profitable benefits with the understanding of the risk involved (Blackburn, 2005). Also, game theory is "the mathematical theory of situations in which two or more players have a choice of decisions (strategies); where the outcome depends on all the strategies; and where each player has a set of preferences defined over the outcomes" (Blackburn, 2005:147). Proponent of this Game Theory was an American mathematician John von Neumann (1903-57), who created strategies that can be adopted during competitions or conflicts that will eventually result to series of consequences in war time, development process or decision-making process (Bothamley, 1993). Game theory according to Robert Abrams applies the understanding of competitive games where "individuals and institutions pursue their rationally predicted maximum self-interests. They do so in a manner

analogous to games players trying to calculate not only their own advantages, but the likely moves of their opponents" (Bothamley, 1993:222).

Interestingly, Game Theory is also conceptualized as a series of political thought about decision-making in a considerable manner wherever there is crisis and players interest are centered on benefits and losses: its origin is traced to the work of Emil Borel in the 1920s (Varma, 2003:286). It is glaringly understandable that game theory is the adequate theory to be used in analyzing the situation concerning federalism and resource control, considering all aspect of life which that of Nigeria's futurology is very precarious: The competition between the producing states and other parts of Nigeria based on self interest in the decision-making process concerning oil production is basically what is causing most of the violent crisis and conflictual agitations over the relegation of oil producing Niger Delta states. Hence, it is believed that there is need to reverse the process and maintain the true structures of federalism and natural resource management and control in Nigeria to guarantee the achievement of peace, political stability ad sustainable development

### **Conceptual Explications/Clarification**

In this study, it is imperative to clearly define the terms used to avoid misinterpretation and to provide a better understanding of the issues in our discussion.

**Federalism:** Federalism is a type of political organization that involve different relatively independent states that decided to come together as one sovereign state that basically share political and economic powers between the centre and the various states and influence over other lesser countries in the world. "Federalism itself was coined by British conservative Edmund Burke" (Safire, 1978:63). And often the federal government does systematically encourage both the state and local governments to meet the needs and aspirations of the people instead of federal intervention which is what is called creative federalism (Safire, 1978). Historically, America,

Canada, Switzerland, Australia, etc have the link to the trace of modern federalism respectively. In 1787, America adopted their constitution marking the emergence of a federal state, with the consideration to political, economic and social matters in conjunction with powerful influence over other countries which are the most profound reasons why states come together as one sovereign state (Dode, 2008). It is "a political system in which power is vested in an association of constituents, rather than in a central government set over and above them" (Blackburn, 2005:131 - 132). In addition, federalism is authentically described as a "System of political organization uniting separate states or other units in such a way as to allow each to remain a political entity.

A federal system differs from other methods of organizing states in being based on a contractual agreement by separate government to share power among themselves (Saliu, 1999): 54 – 55). Although it has been argued that there is no perfect existing federalism, that federalism is a utopic concept that is unattainable in real form rather, that every systematic organization of constituent states coming together as one is just a replica of federalism that they do practice (Ogali, 2012).

#### **Resource Control and Fiscal Federalism:**

Resource control stands for administrative, dictative and powerful influential right over endowments in, within, inside and on a particular area of an environment or human person. However, viewing resource control from the South-South perspective, it stands for "the land, waters, forests, air and all other resources within and around them whether physical or spiritual. A control of these is one straggle that most nations have been involved at one point or the other. Thus, "resource control is now a term used to describe the desire and determination of the communities and people whose resources and or sources of survival have been taken away undemocratically and possibly violently and therefore unjustly" (Douglas, 2001:3). It is worthy to note that the colonial masters were much more interested in the wealth

accumulation in line with the world economic system which after independence, those local political leaders emerged as the pioneers of political elites continued the implementation of the already drafted exploitative plan of the colonizers the proper development of Nigeria's economy and Nigerians as well. Given the pluralistic nature of Nigeria, with multiple ethnic nationalities, contest for power after independence becomes a dangerous straggle because the essence is purely to control political and economic powers, which by extension is to control all the natural resources and determine the pace, distribution and exclusion as the case may be (Akinsanye and Ayoade, 2014).

Moreover, fiscal federalism is an entitled revenue generation influence and right to carry out functional projects allocated to the different levels of government from their generated revenue levied on citizens, organizations and cooperate firms in a sovereign federal state.

Also, fiscal federalism in the words of Adebayo Adedeji is "the practice of true federalism and natural law in which the federating units express their rights to privately control the natural resources within their borders, and make agreed contributions towards the maintenance of common services of the sovereign nation state to which they belong" (Adedeji, 2001:21). Whereas, considering the social aspect of fiscal federalism, Ariyo's concern is that "All social and political institutions should be established in a manner that upholds, or positively modifies, the indigenous culture of a given society" (Ariyo, 1999: 235). Again-fiscal federalism is viewed as fiscal authority sharing between different levels of government in a federal sovereign state over taxations and expenditure administration and control (Oriakhi, 2004).

**Political Stability:** Is "the dynamic stability and steady-development of the government and society" (Igwe, 2002: 344), A state can be said to be politically stable when the government of the day is carrying out her functions without a conspicuous violent conflict, Rebel's activities and incursion, politically motivated demonstrations

by the citizens that is capable of disrupting the governance process.

Whereas on the contrary, when all the above mentioned situations and more arise, such state is said to be politically unstable. Therefore, political instability is the outright disruptions of the governing process, development and societal peace in any state. It can be misconstrued and differently interpreted by the opposing factions because what appears to be good and peaceful political order by those at advantage might be seen and interpreted as instability in the polity by the rivalries which could amount to violent opposition to overthrow the government (Igwe, 2002). However, "the problems of stability and instability in most 3<sup>rd</sup> world states can be inter-linked to three domestic and external sources: the usually arbitrary nature of colonialism (the colonial boundaries, the strange political institutions, the security arrangements and leaderships left behind, and the continuing post-independence policies of neo-colonial imperialism), bad leadership, and endless external intervention" (Igwe, 2002:335). Exogenous forces can ferment unfounded propaganda against any of the newly independent states if they see the leadership of their government as a threat to their interest, they will inspire and sponsor some unpatriotic and aggrieved citizens to destabilize the government as well as overthrowing the government. On the other hand, they can create hostilities in other words, political encirclement so that the targeted country's neighbouring states will be in logger head with that particular state, all is just to ensure that there is unstable government so that they can have their ways (Igwe, 2002),

**Sustainable Development:** Sustainable development was conceptualized in 1987 by Brundtland Commission on Environment and Development as "Development that can meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs" (Rogers, Jala! & Boyd, 2008:11). Sustainable development is an advancement process in which resources and investments are properly managed to be able to

consistently provide for both the present and the future demands without disrupting sustained status quo over time on technological development and institutional change. The most possible ways of achieving sustainable development in a society are to ensure that socio-economic development and environmental protection are strengthened.

Moreover, commitments geared towards achievement of sustainable development includes; guaranteeing technology transfer, advancement and human resource development through training, amelioration of poverty level and under development, gender equality and most importantly developed nations aid and technical assistance to developing countries. It is of necessity because developed countries to a large extent, contributes to environmental degradation and high rate of unemployment that results to high level of poverty in the underdeveloped countries of the South, especially Nigeria with an increasing unemployment rate of 13.9% in 2015 to 14.2% in 2016 up to the present (NBS. Kazeem, 2017). Which later increased from 14.2% to 16.2% then to 18.8% in 2017 and it is still increasing much more presently (NBS. Tony, 2017). Sustainable development cannot be achieved when there is a high rate of unemployment which implies increase in the rate of poverty.

**Federalism in Nigeria:** Federalism is a form of governmental pattern that focuses or with basic objective of unifying different independent regions or states, as the case may be, into one recognized state entity that is availed with social, economic and political benefits strengthens the sovereign state. It has identifiable characteristics of power sharing among the different levels of government, a rigid, written constitution and relative independence of the component states among others. Despite the fact that Nigeria gained independence on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1960, Nigeria's federalism started from 1954 and maintained a true practice of federalism up to 1966 before the Army struck in a military coup'detat in 1966. During the Nigeria's regional era, there was proper federal division of political power between the federal and the regions accordingly. This federal system practiced by

Nigerian government then was truncated by the military that militarized the country and turned it into one sort of unitary practice that culminated to the creation of the first twelve states by Gen. Gowon and more subsequently were created the Nigerian civil war in the succeeding military regimes. However, Nigeria's federalism was an imposition by the colonizers and not like the western federalism of Jeffersons, etc. which were of rational outcome of individual group discussions concerning sovereign independent states that have the interest to come together as one to strengthen their political and economic powers and by extension, grant justice and good governance in unity for the benefit of all citizens

Whereas almost all African federalist states were created without the consent of the people nor any sort of inclusion in the discussion concerning federating the territories as a federal state. Rather, it was a creation that protects the interest of the creator without observing most of the principles of federalism. This is in consonant with almost all the constitutions drafted for almost all the African territories prior to independence which still have sway and manifest as elements of the post-independence constitutions of almost all African new states. While on the contrary, Western States constitutions are quite unlike that, rather, they were drafted by principal personalities that have the interest of the citizens at heart and in the end, approved into law by the consent of the people. Remarkably, realizing that the individual freedom is the crux of political inquiry and such political research is been determined by the type of political governance that rules him as a citizen of the state that observes and obey that government's laws and dictunis. This is why freedom, liberty, justice and equity are the cardinal features of an ideal federalism as it is practiced in the West.

Moreover, in Africa it has been observed that African type of federalism remains a unitary form of practice in a federation, especially in Nigeria, which breeds discord among the component states. Again, for any country to have a that will be development oriented, there must be strong institutions of government and rule of law that will

always be a compass to drive the society towards a consistent and stable development that will culminate to sustainable development, obedience to law and order. In that regard, be it a feeble or a strong leader, the system will always control his or her operations in governance and conformity amongst citizens, visitors, etc to the laws of the state. And not those camellic pattern of governance where politicians move from one party to another criticizing what the other party-led government did, which he or she was part and parcel of it prior to crossing over. All that might be replicated while in the new part if elected into governance. A process of changing the bottle and its label but, the content remains the same, eventually will give the same taste. It is of great interest to know that the practice in Nigeria's federalism was an outcome of the military administration between January 1966 to September, 1979. This was the period when Gen, Ronsi, Gen. Gowon and others used the military decrees to run the command structured military administration in Nigeria as it were then (Ola and Tonwe, 2009).

Furthermore, federalism is a very big task, only a shared political culture cushion the troubles associated with a federal system of government federalism cannot remedy all things. In a federal system of government, there exist devolution of powers and authorities with designated function between the federal, state and local governments. Legally, they monopolies their various powers and authorities because it is all constitutional based. This condition resulted to emergence of three pronounced levels of government operations in a defined federal state. Although their various laws varies in strength, implying that when a federal and state laws coincide, to its level of inconsistency, that of the federal laws reigns supreme while the state laws will be less valid or void. Alterations in the constitution cannot be easily carried out must be made to go through the due process of constitutional amendment processes. In spite of the fact that both the federal and state powers are constitutionally

protected does not mean that both have absolute equilibrium of governmental power rather it implies just equal status.

Again, federalism in Africa is viewed as regionalism which ethnicity defines the boundaries, characterized by the ethnic structures that made up the country (Awa, 1976). In the same vein, in Nigeria's federalism that started since 1954, territories and not ethnic groups were the major area of attention in terms of organizations and arrangements (Amuwo, Suberu, Agbaje and Herault, 2004). Macpherson's 1954 constitution in Nigeria kick started the federal practice that found devolution of power very problematic due to their level of ignorance of the theory, principle and practice of federalism prior to opting for it. Nigerians after opting for federalism, begin to battle on its practice with its various challenges until the military struck in 1966 (Amuwo, Suberu, Agbaje and Herault, 2004).

Finally, in the Western countries, they practice the actual principles in line with the theory of federalism; while in African countries, most of the federal practices are relatively appearing to be a unitary kind of government where the president of the federation becomes autocratic and absolutist in his or her governance pattern. Also federalism imposed on Africans out of force is bound to be conflictual and breed series of disagreement arising from different quarters because they never bargained to be united as one. In this regard, Nigeria's experience speaks more volume, because it was not a negotiable federalism that the people were involved in the decision to fuse the territories together, rather, was an exogenous force and influence that culminated to that state. This situation resulted to adulterated federal practice that can be seen to be false practice of federalism that is prone to domination of the stronger over the weaker. Practices among others include; high level of less liberty, freedom and justice; selfish and unpatriotic leadership; invisibility of political obligation that commands disobedience to law; undermining rule of law and constitutional negligence by both the government and some of the citizens; very strong central federal government with negligence on the welfare of citizens life and social security, protection of life and property, etc.

### **Resource Control Agitation and Political Instability in Nigeria**

Resource control has been a cardinal principle in a federal system of government that is truly practiced, starting from 1787 endorsed American federal constitution. On the contrary, most African independent states after colonial era that were compelled to adopt federal system of government through the British systematic method of fusing territories together for the British expropriation and exploitative interests are practicing unitary in a federal system of government, especially Nigeria for instance. As stated earlier, Nigeria's federal practice appear to be ideal during the regionalism period before 1966 military incursion that abrogated the system and unified governance process.

Thereby towing the approaches and methodological plans used by the British imperialist to equally imperialize some parts of Nigeria. This has created a huge feud, violent crisis, political instability and unpeaceful co-existence between the favoured beneficiaries and the suffering parts in Nigeria. Conspicuously, the suffering parts are those states at the Niger Delta areas, who by virtue of their natural endowment are the producers of Nigeria's major revenue accruing resources.

Moreover, by the rules and principles of federalism, the different units supposed to control the production and distribution of their various resources and remit a stipulated percentage to the central government. This will help to curbsion the problem of adequate and inadequate quest for federal oil resource allocation by the Niger Delta and other parts of Nigeria. And will equally help to impact positively on local environmental development as to achieve sustainable development as it was during the period of regional government operations in the early stage of Nigeria as an independent state. However, Niger Delta areas argument on the inadequacy of the 13<sup>th</sup> percent oil derivation fund approved by the federal government, has a counter argument that state governments in the Niger Delta areas are corrupt and always mismanage the resources for their own development due to lack of prudence and irrationality of their political leaders. This study is of the opinion that such argument would not have arisen if the states are in charge of the management and control of their own resources. This is so because the

pattern of Nigeria's governance process, almost all political leaders in government and those aspiring to come in, are not struggling to remain or come in respectively just to serve. No, rather, very many of them are there for their parochial interests due to the absurd system of government that cares for no body's welfare. Again, what is produced somewhere else is used for the development of other parts at the peril of the producing states, which is very absurd.

Furthermore, the second argument appears to be a political ploy, strategy and deceptive propaganda to deny Niger Deltans particularly, their entitlements over their God given black gold endowment. This is visible through the manipulation done in the process of federal resource allocation in Nigeria which is one of the basic reasons of the unproductive growth, anti-development and a major hindrance to the achievement of sustainable development in Nigeria. To a very large extent, this has culminated to the series of crisis, violent conflicts and militancy agitations that are destructive in nature and causes political instability that results to the replication of conflictual agitations arising from other parts of the country. Retrospectively, it will be recalled all these are happening now because our leaders are just almost subjugating us the way the Europeans did during colonialism. Factually after the 1895 Akassa conflict concerning the Royal Niger Company's hegemonic operations, the 1886 United Africa Company's advancement, the 1891 - 98 Treaties of the Royal Niger Company, etc the British gained political leadership while those their companies struggle to grapple the economic control. Hence these contemporary challenges by some militias such as the Niger Delta People's Volunteer force led by Alhaji Mujahid Dokubo-Asari; the KKK; Icelanders and Germans; the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), amongst others (Peel, 2009).

In addition, federal system of government is all about devolution of powers and responsibilities in terms of policy and decision making, imposition of taxes, resource allocation and good political

leadership in terms of governance. Resource control will guarantee some level of fiscal independence of states in a federal system of government. This will enable states to develop the capacity to manage and control its endowed resources to avoid federal domination and dictates. Because every state in Nigeria is blessed with natural and human resources. Basically what culminated to these strong agitations on resource control is that the revenues generated ought to distribute adequately among states as to curb dissatisfaction of any state. Again, there is equally need for federal assistance in times of disaster or matters that require federal aid, not the Nigerian military specialized python dance of forceful compliance on Niger Delta States.

Also, it is important to recall that Nigeria's federal financial system started between 1945 and 1948. And within 1946, 1951, 1954, 1958, 1964 and 1968; six fiscal review commissions met to see through the challenges of federal revenue allocations in Nigeria. In all, most especially, the Dina commission of 1968 was to ensure equitable allocation of resources in Nigeria (Ayida, 1973). Whereas, in 1977 and 1979 Abovade and Okibo commissions respectively set up by Obasanjo's administration and Shagari's regime to restructure federal revenue allocations amongst the three tiers of government so as to enable the various tiers carry out their statutory functions (Adebayo, 1990). Over and above every other thing, it is resource control that will avert the claim of some states — especially the Niger Delta States - of being minority politically marginalized and cheated ethnic group. This fact remains because all states will be disciplined enough as to harness their own resources and that their development pace are being sustained for continuous advancement, over time.

It will pave way for competition among states and obviously competition breeds advancement which if sustained over time will result to achievement of sustainable development.

**Table 1: Federal State percentages in petroleum Proceeds, 1960 - 2005.**

Years	Producing States	Federal government	Distributable Pool
1960 – 1967	50%	20%	30%
1967 – 1969	50%	50%	-
1970	-	100%	-
1970 – 1971	45%	55%	-
1971 – 1975	45% minus offshore proceeds	55% plus offshore proceeds	-
1975 – 1979	20% minus offshore proceeds	60% plus offshore proceeds	20%
1979 – 1981	-	100%	-
1982 – 1992	1.5%	98.5%	-
1992 – 1999	3.0%	97%	-
1999 – 2005	13%	87%	-

Source: World Press Conference by South-South Geo-political Zone Delegates to the National Political Reform Conference 2005:23. From Table 1 above, between 1960 to 1969 and 1970 to 1975 shows how regions and states were relatively controlling and managing their resources and paying a stipulated percentage to the federal government. And between 1975 to 1979, states start losing control and management of their resources to the federal government headed by the military. Whereas between 1979 to 1981 marked the years states in the Niger Delta lost control absolutely on their resources to the federal government. Also, between 1982 to 2005 were the starting periods that the federal government resorted to be paying oil producing states of the Niger Delta derivative funds in percentages ranging from 1.5% to 3.0% and lastly to 13% which marked the point of South-South Niger Delta States resource control agitations.

### **Resource Control and Sustainable Development in Nigeria**

In a true practiced federal system, component states are in control of their resources and have a certain percentage it pays to the central coffer, which the federal government uses at its own discretion and most often render financial aid to states that are in dire need of their assistance. This will encourage all states to strive and improve on their entrepreneurial flair according to their own strength with the realization that all fingers are not

equal. It will equally lead to discoveries and radical thinking on technological advancement, of production to concentrate, based on their comparative advantage, etc. implying that very many people at that point will be thinking out of the box to make things happen in more creative forms with novel methodological approaches. Because not all countries are majorly depending on oil revenue as their source of survival, as it is in the case of Nigeria. Soon, oil will no longer be of utmost importance and desire again in the global market. Considering the rate at which technological advancement is making waves in developed countries, it is helping to ameliorate the degree of environmental pollution which is a basic constraint to the achievement of sustainable development globally.

Interestingly, it is justifiable to be incharge, direct and manage your natural gift of God which one is directly or indirectly entitled to its management. It will build confidence in peoples line of thought which will result to self-reliance, lack of injustice, tolerance and progressive development that will over time culminate to sustainable development. On the contrary, prior to oil discovery in Nigeria, there were resources from the different regions such as palm oil, cocoa and groundnuts from eastern, western and northern regions respectively that sustained both the country and the regions as



well. The discovery of oil in Oloibiri community, which is in the present Bayelsa State tend to spoil the economic structures on ground in Nigeria. It appears that the Nigerian State is adopting the British colonial strategy of exploitation and expropriation of a particular location to be used for the improvement of another location at the detriment of the former. This to a large extent, breeds rift, grudges and violent conflict that is destructive which resource control will definitely curb and restore harmony and co-operative existence among the different ethnic groups that make up Nigerian State.

Finally, violent conflicts and political instabilities do not promote development rather, retard the pace at which its going. And the series of conflictual agitations by some states in Nigeria, especially those of Niger Delta areas are constraining the acceleration of development. Having clear understanding that development must be consistent over a period of time sustained without disruptions before sustainable development can be achieved. Sustainable development cannot be feasible then, where violent conflicts are destroying the environmental quality economic growth, social equality and causing political instability because of the quest for resource control or restructuring to conform to the principles of Federalism in Nigeria.

### **Conclusion**

In a federal system of government practiced in Nigeria that is more like a unitary system of government where powers are concentrating at center is posing a huge problem in the peaceful co-existence of the different groups in Nigeria. Countries that have federating units in the West, do rationally apply the principles and structures of a true federalist state quite unlike the African brand of federalism. Especially, Nigerian federalism that has been militarized over the years and turned into a unitary kind of administration where states that are within the Niger Delta zone are agitating for resource control.

These series of resource control agitations have brought a lot of negative consequences on the economy of Nigeria, detard peaceful relationships, caused continuous political instability or political disorder. This in the end, has resulted to a slouch pace in the developmental strives, thereby making it very difficult for Nigeria to attain a sustained development over the years on record. The destabilizations have caused a lot of job loss and instead of decrease on the number of unemployed youths in Nigeria; rather, there is a continuous increase on the number of youths that are unemployed. The situation has skyrocketed the rate of hunger and starvation, sickness, deceases and death in Nigeria, hence, the call for federal government to restructure the system and grant resource control to all states; which obviously will usher in peace and much more development that will be in continuum as to culminate to achievement of sustainable development in Nigeria,

### **Recommendations**

In the light of all these research, profferments have been made as follows;

- Government should create a special intervention fund for an increase in infrastructure base as to reduce poverty rate in Nigeria.
- Government should indulge in executing big projects because it ignites a sense of purpose or choice of purpose to the youths as to increase employment by engaging the youths which will drastically reduce unemployment rate.
- Nigerian federalism should be restructured to practice a true federalism as it were prior to the out brake of Nigerian Civil War.
- Resource control should be granted to all states to have the constitutional right to manage and control their own resources to help ignite competition among states which will aid accelerated development in Nigeria.
- A review of the Nigerian constitution is of utmost necessity to capture the issues that is causing most of the agitations.

- There should be an advanced review of the qualifications in all ramifications for those intending to contest for political positions as aspiring political leaders for credibility and responsibility sakes.
  - Public and private sectors should try and absorb some of these unemployed graduates and other youths of different categories by building more industrial estates than living a flamboyant and superfluous life style,
  - Big churches should be given conditions to build a certain number of entrepreneurial industries before they can be allowed to build cathedrals.
- Other smaller ones are made to pay tax to government.
- The study of Entrepreneurial subjects and courses in secondary schools and tertiary schools should be intensified and made compulsory for students as to be meaningful after schooling.
  - Federal government should from time to time intervene on state and local government matters to render aids and technical assistance to them when necessary and in dire need as to fulfill creative federalism.

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