

Conceptualising UNGOVERNED SPACE in Nigeria

Since the return of civil rule democracy over a quarter century ago, the phrase "Ungoverned Space" has made and is making the round in discourses in Nigeria.

Of the spaces referred to as Ungoverned Spaces in Nigeria, the space often called "security" and "civil rule democracy" should top the lists. I used the phrase "often" solely with reference to "security". This connotes my reservation with the use of "security" to refer to this space in Nigeria particularly and increasingly so since the commencement of civil rule and in the period of the transition within transition beginning in 2007. However, this is a conversation for another day. For now, the term called ungoverned space is the subject of discourse.

So, what is Ungoverned Space?

To begin the conversation, it is necessary to start with the term Governed Space. This is because Ungoverned Space is the opposite of Governed Space even though there is no term called governed space in discourses. There are two words in Governed Space. They are Governed and Space. Governed Space is the opposite of Ungoverned Space. There are two words in Ungoverned Space. They are Ungoverned and Space. So, to define Ungoverned Space, it is necessary to begin with Governed Space.

Governed means controlled with rules and regulations in institution made up of persons, custom, culture and tradition. The rules and regulations addressed the questions of what, whose, when, where, issue and how. Space is a physical or non-physical body or area. The space could be tangible or intangible. Put together, a Governed Space refers to a controlled physical or non-physical area for the purpose of effective and efficient utilisation of human and material resources.

Ungoverned means not controlled with rules and regulations. Ungoverned implies the lack of rules and regulations with institution made up of persons, custom, culture and tradition. The implication is that the questions what, whose, when, where, issue and how have not been asked and answered. Space is a physical or non-physical body or area. The physical or non-physical body or area could be tangible or intangible.

Ungoverned Space is an uncontrolled physical or non-physical area of human endeavour where the question of what (when and where) is the space, whose space, what is the issue in the space and how can the issue be achieved have not been asked and answered in order to provide rules, regulations, culture, custom and tradition for enforcement in the space. Ungoverned Space refers to an uncontrolled physical or non-physical area without effective and efficient utilisation of human and material resources.

This is not to say that in Governed Space there cannot be Ungoverned Space and/or conversely in Ungoverned Space there cannot be Governed Space. Aside from processes, procedures and institutions, one of the attributes of governance is enforcement. There is Governed Space and there is Ungoverned Space. Within these two typologies, there is Governed Ungoverned Space and Ungoverned Governed Space. Clearly the first two typologies from which the other two typologies are derived are self-explanatory. By Governed Ungoverned Space, one means that there are Ungoverned Spaces in Governed Space while in Ungoverned Space there are Governed Spaces.

Consequently and aside from processes, procedures and institutions, the element of enforcement is central in the determination of a Governed and/or Ungoverned Space. Where there is no enforcement of the processes, procedures and institutions and/or the rules and regulations in the Governed Space, the tendency is for the Space to take on the Ungoverned Space disposition.

Ungoverned Governed Space is the condition where the processes, procedures and institutions are lacking/inadequate and/or weak and not enforced for the effective and efficient utilisation of human and material resources in this sphere of human endeavour. Governed Ungoverned Space is a condition within Governed Space where processes, procedures and institutions are weak in certain spheres creating Ungoverned Spaces.

The focus of this discourse is on Ungoverned Space. Ungoverned Space is a tangible and/or intangible sphere of human endeavour where there are no processes, procedures, and institutions for the effective and efficient utilisation of human and material resources.

In Nigeria, both tendencies of Ungoverned Space and Ungoverned Governed Space prevail and are prevalent in the tangible and intangible spheres of human endeavour. This is particularly within the context of the military rule and civil rule governance types that featured in its political history. There is the governance of ideas, persons and institutions that ran through these two systems' socialisation of most Nigerians that creates the tendencies of Ungoverned and Ungoverned Governed Spaces.

Of the military and civil rule systems, the socialisation of most Nigerians particularly those that presently constitute the governing class are predominantly under the military rule system. These governing classes have presided over the civil rule democracy system of the last twenty five years using the knowledge they were socialised into during military rule periods.

Consequently, the civil rule democracy and governance aspects of the socialisation of persons and institutions using civil rule democracy IDEAS has been constrained by Ungoverned Spaces on the one hand and on the other hand Ungoverned Governed Space. This development would not have been evident without the experiences of over a quarter century of what we describe variously as civil rule democracy and/or democracy in practice in Nigeria.

There is need to begin to create civil rule democracy, democracy and governance IDEAS within Nigeria's history, experience and reality (HER) with which to address the prevalence of Ungoverned Spaces, Ungoverned Governed Spaces and Governed Ungoverned Spaces in Nigeria. This is especially with the experiences of the last over a quarter century. In doing this, most Nigerians will begin to grow and develop the cultures, customs and traditions associated with civil rule democracy and governance ideas.

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