

Nationalities' Uprising and the Call for Restructuring

It is pretty much certain that Nigeria's governing elite have boxed themselves into a tight corner that for the first time in their existence they are forced to confront what has been evident to most except them: the dissatisfaction, disgruntlement and possible revolts of the nationalities. The cause of this is the deterioration of governance at all levels.

The deterioration of governance deepened peoples' insecurity in a country without a defined philosophy of security. The net result is proliferation of the underdevelopment of development. As a result of lack of development, there is a phenomenal intensification of unemployment, inequality and poverty. Seer had noted that it was only when unemployment, inequality and poverty were on the decline that development can be said to have taken place. Governance, security and development are not organically linked in order for one to influence the other as is the case in society where rules, regulations and institutions work.

The call for restructuring is growing immensely every waking day. Plenty persons across the divides are lending their voices to the cause for restructuring. It is not certain to what degree these clamour for restructuring is real particularly among previous opponents. It is also not certain the shape restructuring will take when it comes. Whatever is the politics that is informing the change of mind, there is a groundswell of views that all is not well with Nigerians and Nigeria.

As this is going on, one cannot help but to note the prevalence of "triple entendre" among the antagonists in the Nigerian project. By "triple entendre", I mean the ability to leave one impression open while keeping two within one's chest. Nigeria operates six geopolitical regions. The geopolitical contraption was one of the outcomes of the several attempts to work out a possible formula of coexistence among the nationalities. The last of this was the 2014 nationalities conference. The report has joined others to gather dust on shelves of Nigeria's unresolved problems. It may not gather dust for long, however.

These geopolitical regions represent the five possible countries that would emerge in a worst case scenario of restructuring. There is no doubt that each possible country has three cards two of which it keeps close to its chest. In other words, there is a dishonest conversations playing out among the nationalities in Nigeria as they consider their future in Nigeria.

While I would sketch my view of the north, west, east and Niger Delta, my interest is with the area variously called Middle Belt, Central Nigeria and North Central. It is my concern as far as the gathering storm of whether Nigeria should be or not be is concerned.