



Meritocracy To Mediocrity In Nigeria: Experience Of The 4th Republic

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ABSTRACT

This research work titled Meritocracy to Mediocrity in Nigeria: Experience of the 4th Republic was born out of the current state of Nigeria. This paper surveyed deeply into the political arena of Nigeria and the world's perception about Nigeria's current state as well as the leaders' attitude since 1960 till date. This paper traced the historical emergence of the nation called Nigeria right from the first appearance of the British moguls in the year 1861. The roles played by the Royal Niger Company in capturing protectorates, how Lagos was discovered and became first settlement of the Whiteman was revealed. The paper further traced how this marriage called Nigeria came to be. The invitation of an army actor Frederick Lord Lugard in 1800's for protection of the Northern protectorates against French invasion and the fight against jihadists as well as slave trade abolition by the Islamic empires was harnessed. How the presence of a British respected journalist Flora Shaw who later became the wife of Lugard changed the system with her formation of the name Nigeria after tributaries of sailors was discussed. The paper reviewed the contributions of all the Nigerian leaders from 1861 to 2019. It further informed of the loss of once glorified country Nigeria to a country of mockery among the community of nations. The caption meritocracy to mediocrity was justified considering the current state of the nation. The paper concluded with recommendations on the way forward from this present state of quagmire.

Keywords: Meritocracy, Mediocrity, Niger, Republic, Royal Niger Company, Colonial, Protectorates, Coup d'etat, Leadership, British, Politics, Religion, Amalgamation,

INTRODUCTION

The worry of citizens living in this 21st century, about inhumane attitudes of leaders and the entire citizenry in Nigeria calls for an urgent attention. Nigeria is a sovereign nation bonded with a lot of human prowess, natural features that can sustain economic welfare of the people but political and social attitudes of the people is obnoxious. Nigeria is most times referred as the giant of Africa but one would always ask, giant of what? Giant of overpopulation?, Giant of foreign loans? Giant of terrorism?, Giant of underdevelopment? Giant of money laundry?, or is it the giant of ethnic sentiments. These and many more questions prick my heart whenever Nigeria is called giant of Africa. No wonder W.E.B Dubois stated that Africa was once a romantic continent but the most tragic continent of the recent century, which no one would complete a history without Africa.

The utmost aim of education is the removal of animalistic nature of man to a well directed human behaviour that will aid political, socio-cultural, economic and technological development of man and the

society, while attitude is the exhibition of behaviours in a particular scenario and character is a constant exhibition of particular behavior overtime without change. It is pertinent to state that the poor behavior of Nigerians in all facet of life is disheartening. Following the values envisaged by the colonial masters over 200 decades in Africa and Nigeria in particular, seeing Nigeria as an independent state that has never been independent in politics, social norms, religions, economic structures, science, health and technology remains a mirage. It therefore implies that education has done us worst than good hence our attitudes has remained very poor and even worst in this 21st century.

Not surprising, in the words of **Eleasar Anyuoku 2015** quote, the *dreams of Nigeria's founding fathers* were crushed by awkward and unfeasible governance structural design which *fuels corruption, political volatility, and ethnic incoherence*. Unquote.

Our founding fathers were optimistic, curious and determined to give us a resounding nation full of love, care, Unisom, independent with rapid growth in human capital development and technological advancement worthy of jealous among community of nations but was in hast and errors worsened by the 21st century crop of citizenries. A glance at the standards of Nigerian citizens before 1901 to 1960 when we finally have the so acclaimed independence that we have never been independent is so excruciating that the ancestors were better-off than the present day Nigerians. Indeed we are retrogressing, deteriorating, retarding and losing values in infrastructure, leadership, religion, education, technology, coherence, sovereignty, attitudes, health, and reputation within ourselves and among international communities. How, why and when did we found ourselves in this draconian abyss shall form the array of this study.

Nigeria at a Glance

Due to human perceptions, mixture, misinterpretation, misunderstanding, hatred, bias, poor documentation, cob-webbing, loss in transit and decadence of archives and documents among other factors no particular mimeographs can completely depict the true history of Nigeria. However, below is a piece of the history before 1901 to this current dispensation.

Historically, the name Nigeria is mere baptismal or better called marriage name. The name came into existence due to tripartite arrangement by British moguls between the years 1600 to 1861, when they firstly colonized the South-Western region Lagos in particular as a Royal home via gun-boat negotiation. Accordingly, Lagos became the base of the Whiteman and centre of strategies and encroachment. The choice of Lagos was basically for commercial purposes and its costal advantage for marine exports. In the year 1865, it became a priority to invade the Eastern region comprising the Igbos down to the Ijaws and the entire South-South following the legislative barrier by the house of common not to further acquire any part of the West but the East due to natural endowment of palm and timbers necessary for the first industrial revolution. The Northern inclusion wasn't importance for any good reason neither for economic, social or futuristic prospect but political prevalence against French dominance and to contain slave trade excesses which was more predominant in the North by the sultan of Sokoto and other jihadist empires even after the abolition of the act before 1700's. The presence of the white-men was resisted by the Northern empires which posed the threat of the British colonists requesting for military support. In view of this challenge, a commanding officer of the army experienced in golf wars in person of Frederick Lugard was deployed as the Northern protectorate Governor to man the forceful militias and he settled in Lokoja as the capital, while in Calabar the capital of the Southern protectorate retired police officer Moore was the Governor and in Lagos Dr. Macgregor Williams was the Governor. No doubt that the reason of deploying non military personals in the later regions was due to their civility.

In the South and West, within 1896 some persons were promoted to warrant chiefs who would help in communicating local languages, western education and Christian doctrines while in the North the Royal Niger Company led by Lugard faced tough resistance by the Fulani/Hausa group who eminently rejected western education and Christianity which Lugard ceded as an agreement for peace until 1946 when Ahmadu Bello made his first tour to Lagos and saw the level of socio-economic development attracted by western education and civil order. According to Ahmadu Bello in his book titled *my life*, cited in Momah

(2015), and he stated that the *northern militias fought the colonists till they chased Sultan Atahiru out of his capital across Nigerian border and was caught up in Bornu where he died fighting for his people.* This assertion indicates that indeed Nigeria is not a nation but forced into being a nation.

Borgu, Nikki and Sokoto the home base of the caliphates was the last hinterland captured by Lugard and his gallant soldiers, which gave rise to the claims and announcement of Northern protectorate by Lugard. Following this victorious efforts, he was pronounced the first British high commissioner for Northern Nigeria on January 1st 1900, fifteen years after the establishment of western and southern Nigeria by the Great Britain.

Before 1900, the three colonies were directed and controlled by the British trade company Royal Niger Company, under his lordship George Goldie and governed separately as sovereign entities. Having conquered the three territories, there was no acceptable name given holistically to address the territories as one nation under the RNC rather different imaginations gave different names such as Central Sudan and Niger Sudan not until Flora Shaw the daughter of British army chief an influential journalist made her first missionary journey to Africa, and she discovered a lot of routes for the easy exportation of trade items down to Europe and she coined after the territories an abbreviation NIGERIA which appeared firstly in her articles of January 1892 published in London. This name was long debated in London by the legislative assembly and passed legislation approval in 1st January 1900 and was accepted by the RNC of the Great Britain.

In the original plans of the RNC, the three protectorates were to be organized as different countries following their geographical features, religions and economic viabilities. This great dream was lifeless subsequent to Lugard's first tour as Governor of the Northern protectorate down the south where he met Flora Shaw between the years 1900 to 1907 and both of them got married. Lugard was transferred to govern Singapore in the year 1908 to 1911, and was redeploy back to Nigeria in the year 1912 but not as governor of the North rather governor of Lagos and Southern protectorates. Having been Governor of the Northern protectorate and the influence of his wife Flora who insisted that Lugard should amalgamate the three protectorates for easy governance lead to this un-divorceable marriage we find ourselves today on the 1st day of January 1914, and specified not to last beyond 100 years life span.

From 1914-1945, the amalgamation didn't go down well with the three tribal spheres including the introduction of foreign cultures and forceful unity which sprang the guilds of Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, Dr. Edward Blyden, Sir Ahmadu Bello, Dr. Africanus Horton, Herbert Macaulay and Dore F.W including the Aba Women riot of 1929 demanding for freedom which finally was granted on 1st October 1960. From the history, it is clear that this marriage lacks romantic attractions and was born out of mercy and personal decision rather than the peoples demand. Some questions to be answered are; why was the amalgamation pegged for 100 years only? Why haven't we disintegrated after the 100 years peg? Were our founding fathers actually ready for this freedom? These questions will continue ringing bell in the heart of patriotic Nigerians until a solution to Nigeria's retardation is proffered.

Pre and Post liberty Leaderships and Experiences

Despite the British egotistical pursuits for trade, her inputs in stoppage of slave trade in the Northern empires and the struggles for one territorial control cannot be undermined. The quality of leadership exhibited as well as the modern civilization, western education, peaceful and individual choice to religion, and leverage to technological purviews, healthcare development won't be forgotten just in a hast.

Before granting independence to Nigerians, the British colonists were optimistic that they had trained enough manpower capable of sustaining her legacies as well as protect her investments believing that Nigerians have learnt much from the European calamities resulting from war and bad leaderships over the centuries irrespective of the fact that there were blunders in the landscaping and political concentrations that favoured a section but undervalued the others. Regrettably, reverse is the case as our leaders are beclouded by ethnic divides, bribery and corruption, fake leadership and personal aggrandizement, religious fanaticism and over dependant on foreign influence for managing the country which her counterparts such as India, Singapore, Malaysia and Brazil has left them behind, what a shame.

Pre/Pro-independent Leaders and achievements

S/N	PRE LIBERTY LEADERS	REMARK
1	George Goldie 1861-1914	Was the leader of RNC, founded Lagos, established protectorates, and under his leadership the name Nigeria, was coined and approved.
2	Fredericks Lugard 1914-1922	Amalgamated the three protectorates, fought against Northern jihadists, won the sultans. And his wife Flora coined the name Nigeria.
3	Clifford Hugh (constitution)1922-1945	Formed an advisory assembly of 46 membership, 42 whites and 3 westerners and 1 southerner.
4	Richard Authur (constitution)1945-1951	Constituted a three regional government with provinces. The North, West And East. With a unitary system, Azikiwe, Macaulay of NCNC protested at London while Awolowo of NPC and Ahmadu Bello of AG conceded citing prematurity as a base.
5	Macpherson John (constitution)1951-1954	Introduced federal system of government yet retaining the three regions with strong powers of economic reliance.
6	Lyttleton (constitution)1954-1954	Divided Nigeria into five regions. The North, East, West, Lagos as capital & Southern Cameron.
7	Macpherson John's (constitution) second term in office 1954-1958	Ushered in a new constitution. Introduced bicameral legislative assemble of Senate & House of Reps. Granted regional assemble and regional autonomy In 1957.
8	Robinson James (constitution)1959-1960	Refined the independence constitution. Accused Macpherson of pro-south and was also accused of pro-North which he accomplished by ensuring the victory of Tafawa Belewa before he left on Nov, 16 th 1960.

S/N	POST LIBERTY LEADERS	REMARK
1	Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe 1960-1963	The 1 st republic leader. Received the Nigerian constitution Oct, 1 st 1960 from the British Govt. became first republic governor general in 1960-1963 & head of state. 1 st president1963-1966, while Belewa was the prime minister & head of government.
2	Gen. Ironsi Aguiyi Jan. 15 th 1966- July 29 th 1966	Thwarted Major Kaduna Nzeogu's coup 15/01/1966. Became 1 st military head of state. Replaced federal system of governance with unitary system. Was killed in an official assignment in Ibadan alongside his host Col. Fajuyi Adenkule on July 29 th 1966.
3	Gen. Gowon Yakubu July 29 th 1966 –July 29 th 1975	Ruled 9 years. Created 12 states out of 4 regions. Fought war against Biafra nation from 1967-1970. Introduced 3Rs after the war.
4.	Gen. Mohammed Murtala 29 th July 1975- 13 Feb. 1976	Overthrew Gowon. Indiscriminately retired civil servants and laid the root cause of corruption in civil service. Was killed by Col. Dimka on 13/02/1976.
5	Gen. Obasanjo Olusegun Mathew 13 th Feb. 1976-1 st Oct. 1979	Became head of state after his mater's death. Conducted constitutional review in 1979. Launched operation feed the nation. Launched UPE. Handed over leadership to democratically elected Govt. Oct. 1 st 1979.

6.	Shagari Shehu 1 st Oct. 1979-31 st Dec. 1983	2 nd republic president. Entered second term. Launch mass housing scheme and green revolution. Was very weak in checkmating cabinet members.
7.	Gen. Buhari Muhammadu 31 st Dec. 1983-27 th Aug. 1984	Was eminently supported by Gen. Idiagbor. Launch War Against Indiscipline & anti-corruption war.
8.	Gen. Badamosi Ibrahim Babangida 27 th Aug. 1984-27 th Aug. 1993	Launched Structural Adjustment Program (SAP). Scattered Nigerian economy. Exchange rate of #1.00-\$1 became #75.00-\$1 under one month. Annulled the most credible election in Nigeria and jailed the winner Abiola Moshud.
9.	Shonekan Ernest 27 th Aug. 1993-17 th Nov. 1993	Planned to hold elections in 1994. Was excused out of office by Abacha Sani. Was the first & only interim leader of Nigeria.
10.	Gen. Abacha Sani 17 th Nov. 1993-8 th of June 1998	Was a rude leader full of autocratic process. Planed self transition from military to democratic president. Died mysteriously in power. Ended third republic.
11.	Gen. Abubaka Abdulsalami 8 th June 1998-29 th May 1999	Fast tracked transition from military to democracy. Handed over earlier than scheduled.
12.	Mathew Olusegun Obasanjo Democratic rule May 29 th 1999-May 29 th 2007	Established EFCC, ICPC & NDDC. Launched UBE. Cleared international debts and recovered looted funds by Abacha.
13.	Yaradua Umaru 29 th May 2007-10 th May 2010	Was the most loved president in Nigeria. Admitted poor electoral process. Was sincere. Established Ministry of Niger Delta. Granted amnesty to militants and revoked sales of national assets. Lost to the cold hands of death via heart disease.
14.	Dr. Azikiwe Goodluck Ebele Jonathan 11 th May 2010-29 th May 2015	Was a Vice President. Became first Nigerian acting president, confirmed president and elected president in 2011. Was the most hated president due to his minority ethnic background. Lead Nigeria to the global economic competitors.
15.	Gen. Mohammed Murtala 29 th May 2015 – expected date 29 th May 2023. Democratic rule	Defeated Jonathan in 2015 elections. Have no clear agenda. Nothing to show as a difference yet.

Abortive Coups d’etat in Nigeria

S/N	EXECUTORS	REMARKS
1.	Major Kaduna Nzeogu 15 th Jan. 1966	This coup cannot be said as a completely abortive but partial because it leads to change of government, although the civilian government out of fear peacefully handed over power to Ironsi. Ironsi escaped death. Their reason was perceived corruption by the leaders.
2.	Col. Dimka S.B 13 th Feb. 1976	Again this coup was not totally abortive because it leads to another change in government. However neither of the plotters achieved their dreams. There was no clear reason for the act rather regional sentiment was cited.

3.	Gen. Mammam Vatsa 1985	No accurate date to this event, it was perceived action. However the perceived actor was executed on 3 rd March 1986.
4.	Major Gideon Orkar	The most intelligent coup ever in Nigerian history. Involved Great Ogbolu & other civilians. The coup failed due to Gideon's early announcement of bisecting of some Northern states from the shores of Nigeria. Their reasons were regional dominance.

Meritocracy to Mediocrity

Meritocracy is cooperate words that depicts excellence in performance, quality management, quality control, quality behaviours, quality leadership, quality education, quality individual and collective merit. The words were derived from Latin and Greek. In Latin, meritocracy is called *mereō* and *cracy* while in Greek it is pronounced *κράτος kratos* meaning power and strength in leadership. In recent time meritocracy has turned into a political system of governance where socio-economic prowess, religious tolerance and political powers are trusted in the hands of individuals on the foundations of performance, personal and collective efforts, talents and records of achievement, rather than geocentricism and social stratum.

This term meritocracy has been in existence for centuries as a measure of individual differences in a particular context. However, the term became more conspicuous in 1958 following the design of Michael Dunlop Young. In his essay titled *The Rise of the Meritocracy* crowned it up as a system of government and was firstly adopted in the USA where intending leaders must be subjected to tough scrutiny interns of academic, social and political achievements before given elective positions. In the other hand, Mediocrity is a barbaric act, non-chalant attitudes, sycophancy, deceit, poor quality, half-baked leadership, cluelessness, fake life, uselessness, underdevelopment, lack of trust, subversion of merit to mediocre, opposite of meritocracy is mediocrity.

Meritocracy to Mediocrity in Nigerian Educational System

The coming of the colonial missionaries in Nigeria came alongside western education. Although the education was not based on the curriculum for Nigerians but education that will serve the purpose of the missionaries in the case of communication, religion, trade and interactions among the whites and the colonies. The education was extremely standard, progressive and well structured. The colonial education developed our ancient elites to a world standard capable of competing with their counterparts globally. The colonial education groomed Nigerians from standard 1-6, secondary educations were structured to fit in all talents whether technical or commercials. The education produced artisans, technicians, literary orators and university graduates that were celebrated at home and abroad. The school system was solely government affairs, and was made compulsory for all citizens of school age. There were measures for entrance and merit for all achievement. How these standards fell apart in our educational system is still a mirage. It is so painful to state that our university graduates cannot match the standard 6 graduates of the 1940's. School business has gradually slipped off the hands of the government to the hands of private individuals who know nothing about school foundation and administration. Our public schools building has turned into potteries, our leaders no longer train their children in public schools but private schools only but a few, others abroad. This scenario implies that we have lost value in our educational system. The schools system has turned into money making channels where huge budgets are being made for transformation, reconstruction and remediation but gets worse progressively. Some of our graduates can't spell their names correctly, everybody in Nigeria wants to be a graduate but unproductive. Any nation that has lost hope in her citizens is not a nation but enclave of doom. Niagara is indeed in a state of mediocrity.

Meritocracy to Mediocrity in Nigerian Religions

Before the invasion of the Britons in Nigeria, Nigerians had her own religions especially African Traditions Religion (ATR) as well as atheist but the Arabic and Western influence brought in Christianity and Islam which later dominated both the north and southern Nigeria. This acculturation mutated our original cultures and religion. However, these religions were well organized and practiced in orderly manners till 1960. Today in Nigeria, religious matters that was supposed to be an individual affairs has suddenly turned a state affair where our governments now sponsors religious fanatics for pilgrimage, what a shame! The religion sectors are so divisive that we no longer see ourselves as one nation created by the same God. Our leaders siphon huge amount of money from the public fund in the name of pilgrimage. Religious leaders has turned holy temples to save heavens for criminals, kidnapers and armed robbers who takes huge amount of money to the pastors and Imams for donation and prayers, yet no question on the source of the money but they are being celebrated as blessed members of the church. Our politicians, government officeholders hide and launder public funds with churches because nobody audits church account in Nigeria.

Is pathetic, to state that religious temples has be so desecrated and overridden by infidels who can't face life challenges but resort into religious bigotries, opening of religious centres at each kilometer yet religious related crimes increases daylong in Nigeria. Religious activities in Nigeria are now games of mediocrity.

Meritocracy to Mediocrity in Nigerian Health Sectors

Prior to the Whiteman's era, Nigerians were independent in healthcare services traditionally. We lost focus of our own methods and vied that of the Whiteman. Notwithstanding, the Whiteman taught us good healthcare systems, established clinics and trained our citizens as nurses and doctors which were very effective till late 70's. Today our once celebrated teaching hospitals are more or less past glories. The equipments left behind by Lugard and his successors are still in use in our hospitals. The buildings remain dilapidated and chattered till date. Our doctors have lost focus and some of them have travelled abroad where their knowledge would be regarded and useful. In Nigeria, no public clinic is in good look neither with qualified practitioners. The sector has been dominated by private hospitals and quacks that cannot carryout surgery but end up killing her patient. None of our political leaders seek medical attention here in Nigeria but in abroad thereby weakening our economy. This is an indication of a failed sector. In 2017-2018 President Mohammadu Buhari wasted over nine months in UK clinics undergoing system rehabilitation without unveiling how much he spent. Indeed our health sector is in the hands of mediocrity.

Meritocracy to Mediocrity in Nigerian Leadership

Leadership is the head of organizations, institutions and governments. The Nigerian leaders have failed woefully in all sectors. In the legislative assemblies, our legislators are arm-worming and rubberstamped legislators at the mercy of the executives. They are only after sitting allowances and monthly emoluments. Is only in Nigeria that national assembly members take home above thirty million naira per-month, while the minimum wage remains at eighteen thousand naira per-worker per-month less than one dollar per-day. Our laws are still obsolete as that of 1959, no changes no improvement.

The judiciary which was supposed to be the last hope of the common man has been bastardized by the executives. The executives determine judgments at various levels of the courts. Judges are so corrupt that they can't see truth and standby it any longer in Nigeria. Judgments are so delayed without justifiable reasons; judgment in Nigeria is now highest bidder's affair. Our governments have also lost confidence in our judiciary system as matters of crucial importance are channeled abroad for justice. See the case of Alamesiaya versus federal government, Ibori versus federal government and Henry Orkar versus federal government. Other cases within the state are polarized by one interest or the other.

No structural political party system in Nigeria. Individuals wakeup to register political party without meeting the required measures. Political positions have turned to party affairs where officeholders decide on how to manage the state affairs with few individuals without consulting the populace. Party members

in Nigeria are seen as saints while opposition members are seen as corrupt citizens. Party manifestos are no longer useful; credibility is not respected rather highest bidders, illiterates and half baked graduates have taken over the polity in Nigeria. Political gangsters, moneybags, assassinations, blackmails and ringing of elections have taken the place of due process elections in Nigeria. Indeed we are a mediocre country.

Executives are the arms of government bestowed with the responsibilities of executing the laws propounded by the legislators as interpreted by the judiciary. Reverse is the case in Nigeria as the executive dictates the laws to be passed by the various assemblies, direct the judiciary on the cases to judge. The executives have ruined the country with excessive powers wedding to them by the archaic constitutions which they have refused to amend. The roads constructed across the nation by the colonial masters and the first republic are the only roads still in good condition till date, all the roads constructed by our recent leaders can't even stand the test of time. Our refineries built in the 1960's are still the way they were built, no new refinery, not even one in good working conditions. Our blessed crude oil products are been extracted, exported to foreign countries to refine and re-imported as a finished product back to Nigeria. What a charade of mediocrity. Nigerian power sector still remains at kenji dam production; we prefer importing generators than electricity supply.

The Nigerian leaders since the return of democracy have being recycling archaic citizens as leaders, old brains from the same military system to democracy. One would be pushed to ask if there are no fresh and young citizens capable of leading this country. Indeed Nigeria has left meritocracy for mediocrity.

Meritocracy to Mediocrity in Nigerian's International Relations

No nation can survive without the support of other international communities. Nigeria among other countries is a member of several international organizations such as; OPEC, ECOWAS, AU, G8 and UN after independence till date. In the 1960's Nigeria was regarded as a prestigious nation full of potentials and a hope for other African nations due to its multifarious population, wealth, and several natural recourses. Today Nigeria is a mockery among community of nations due to over dependence on foreign support, loans and weak institutions.

Our military system is so under-equipped, that it can't even defeat Boko Haram sect and other local insurgents. Our militaries have been ridiculed to the extent where they are now redeployed to stand on our major roads waging civil matters. What a shame!

The Nigeria police are the worst institution within the confines of the entire world. Nigerian police have left her civil duties and jumped into broad day robbery of commuters, joining force with hoodlums to steal, kidnap and aide politicians to embezzle public funds. Other institutions in Nigeria are not left out of corrupt practices in all facet of the nation.

In recent times, well developed country leaders visits developing nations full of potentials and growth, but over some decades no president of the well developed nations have visited Nigeria, throughout the tenures of Obama, he came to Africa and stopped in Ghana and Rwanda. These are indications of a failed nation. In 2018, USA president Triumph called our president lifeless, in 2019 Nigeria was excluded from G8 conference, while our presidents and governors have being travelling all over the entire world for nothing. Indeed Nigeria is a failed nation from meritocracy to mediocrity.

CONCLUSION

Conclusively, Nigeria is in the state of quagmire struggling to survive. Nigeria is best in policy making but mediocre in implementation. Our agricultural sector is ocean of fund swallow in the mist of scarcity, we have vast and arable lands full of hope yet we can't produce enough food that can sustain the nation, rather we export the little we produce and import foreign items.

Our manufacturing sector has collapsed long ago as most of our locally used clothes are foreign; we have deteriorated to the extent of buying foreign secondhand clothes, old scrap vehicles, expired foods, obsolete war equipments and satellites.

Our social lives have dropped drastically to the extent that nightlife is almost a history, hoodlums everywhere. We no longer consume our own drinks but we depend on foreign wines, beers including drinking waters.

Finally, it is worrisome that our young youths have abandoned watching Nigerian leagues such as Eyimba, Enugu Rangers football clubs. We now cherish foreign leagues such as Chelsea, Man Chester Utd and Liverpool football clubs over our own clubs.

Nigerians now praise criminals, kidnapers, and wayward citizens who indulge in sever crimes, 419, militancy, political killing, religious war leadership and political looting as the favoured citizens. Our youths no longer read books rather they watch unnecessary television programs such as big brother Naija and phonographic videos; they spend time in playing coupons, brothels and cultism. Indeed we are in a sorry state of mediocrity.

Counsels

Based on the findings of this work, it would be of colossal substance to present the succeeding counsels:

1. Leadership courses and training is required in our schools curriculum
2. Moral ethics devoid of religious influence should be inculcated into our schools curriculum
3. Federal characters should be abolished in our constitution and be replacement with merit characters
4. National reconciliation conference should be instituted to reconcile aggrieved citizens from the effects of coup d'etat and the civil war.
5. Restructuring of the Nigerian landscape to ensure equity in geographical size is highly needed.
6. Old leaders should be barred from contesting elections in Nigeria.
7. There should be legislation barring our leaders from training their children abroad.
8. Any government officeholder should be prohibited from seeking medical relief abroad.
9. There should be a legislation forbidding the extension of any criminal case beyond one month.
10. There should also be a legislation seeking revolution in the oil sector, barring the importation of finished product and generators.
11. Monetary management policy should be put in place forbidding the use of cash above one thousand naira in-order curb ransom collection, moneybag politics and money laundry.
12. Education should be made compulsory and merinos.
13. Employment should be strictly based on merit
14. Meritocracy should be introduced as a system of government in Nigeria to eliminate mediocrity.
15. Individual candidacy should be encouraged in our electoral system to reduce party influence and presentation of mediocre candidates.
16. A new electoral act should be passed into law for electronics voting than the present manual methods.
17. Leadership debates should be made compulsory by law to expose low key performing candidates.
18. Manifestos should be made compulsory and lawful for performance by any leader with strict adherence.
19. Budgets and expenditures should be made public subject to scrutiny by financial experts and possible prosecution of erring leaders.
20. Immunity clause should be abolished from the constitution for equity and justice.
21. The act of government involvement in religious matters and sponsoring of pilgrimages should stop with immediate effect.

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