

NIGERIA

“THE WAY FORWARD”

A Brief Proposal written by:
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1.0 **Introduction**

This brief report –proposal is solely my opinion and has become necessary due to the current conference opportunity given by President Goodluck Jonathan to leaders of thoughts, the insecurity in our dear nation and to save our motherland from a state of failure in governance.

2.0 **Abstract**

Nigeria got her independence in 1960 amidst pomp and pageantry and with bright hopes for the future. However due to lack of proper planning and a developmental road map structured towards elevating our country from the status of a third world country to a developed nation, Nigeria has been groping in the dark and occasionally moving in circles except for a very few advancements in the right direction over the last five decades.

Nigeria has been plagued with many problems especially those that tend to make us stand apart in brotherhood due to difference in tribes, tongues and religious inclinations. From our independence, Nigeria has undergone quite a number of peaceful and forceful changes of governments. Most of these changes were by military coups, starting with Major Chukwuma Kaduna Nzeogwu's bloody coup in 1964 that overturned governance of the first republic to General Sani Abacha's sacking of the interim government in 1993 which was put in place by General Ibrahim Babaginda after the latter stepped aside in August after annulling the election of June 12 supposedly won by Chief M.K.O Abiola, in the same year. The other changes of government were by democratic elections in 1980 when General Olusegun Obasanjo handed over to Alhaji Shehu Shagari in a peaceful transition from military governance to civilian rule and again; by the former as a retired soldier and civilian president in 2007 (after 2 terms-1999-2003-2007) when he handed over to President Umaru Yaradua.

We know Umaru Yaradua latter died of a terminal illness before he could finish his term and his Vice President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan was latter sworn in and is currently still the president today.

President Jonathan has set up a conference made up of eligible Nigerians to proffer solutions to all the myriad of problems facing our dear country and causing stumbling blocks to our progress and Co-existence as a dear nation.

3.0 **My Proposal, Contribution and Constitutional Solution**

Taking an in-depth look at the major causes of violence in our polity and governance as a nation, one would see that clashes occur due to many issues ranging from power tussle, poverty, living spaces, cultural rights, tribal sentiments, religious intolerance, political rivalry and uncivilized national orientation. This is aggravated by tussle for power at the center as every electorate gives more of their support or loyalty for any candidate who comes from their locality or at least their region before their political constituency or party's choice. This can be witnessed even in this present dispensation and former regimes in the past. I have a dream of a better Nigeria that will be made up of compatriots who genuinely want to serve their fatherland with love, strength and faith despite differences in tribes and tongues and that would stand together in brotherhood and one nation abounding in freedom.

My proposal to Nigeria is to formulate or constitute our own home grown democracy being the most populous black nation in the world and one of the most diversified bedrock of indigenous spoken languages found in any black nation in the world. My formulae or constitution for a peaceful and prosperous Nigeria is a Presido-Parliamentary system of government with a regulatory center where all Prime Ministers are only accountable for checks and balances of budgetary allocations received from the center. Nigeria is divided into six regions as recorded presently as of the date (April 2014) of writing this proposal. The regions are South East, North East, South West, North West, South-South and North Central.

I hereby propose six prime ministers that will be elected from a credible election in their respective region. The elected prime minister must be an indigene of the region before he or she can stand for election. This solution would lessen the agitation for the center as each Prime Minister is seen as a bi-president by his or her own people or region. The structured chain from the LG level would be Local Government to State Government to the Regional Prime Minister.

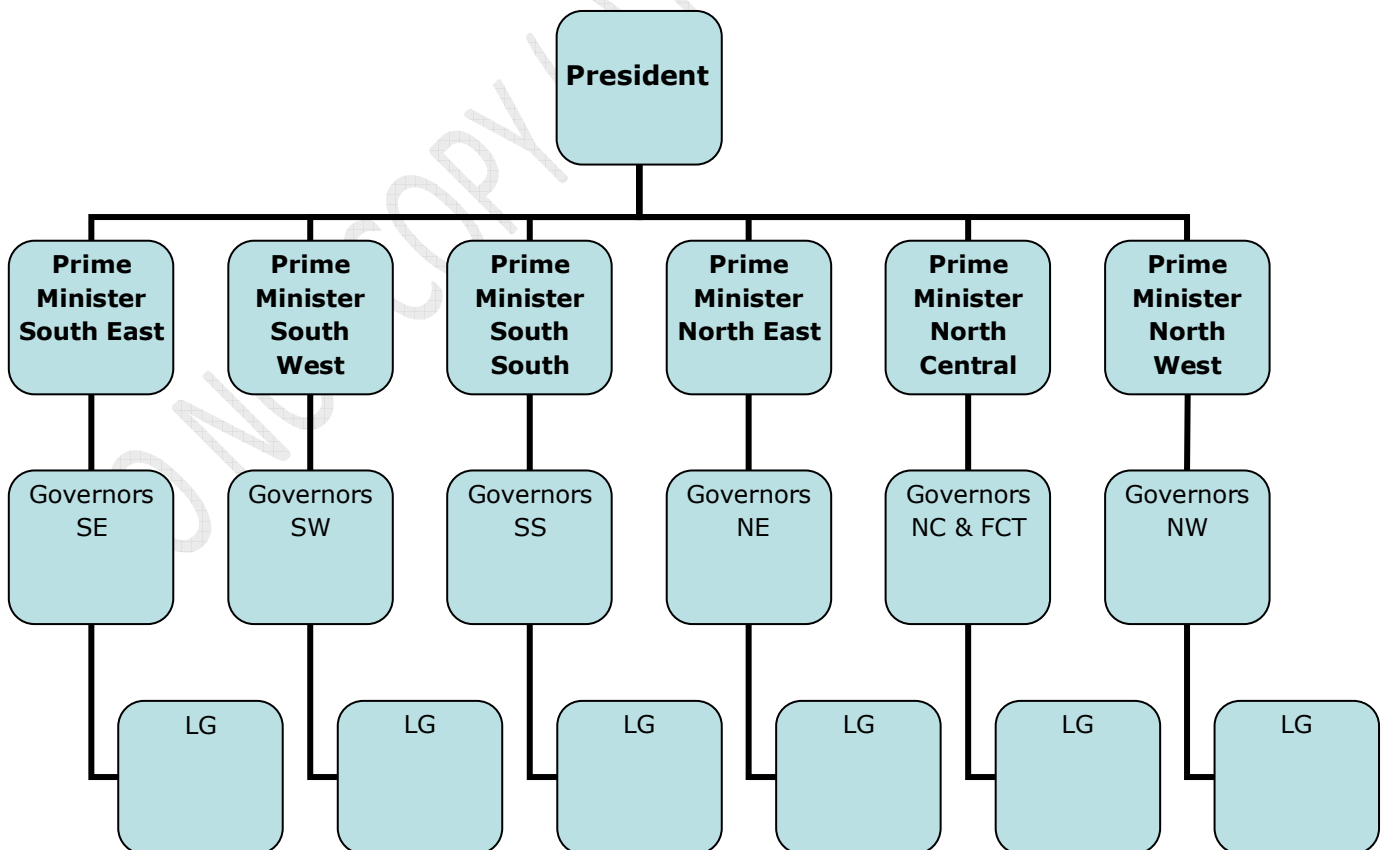
The President would have powers to meet with the Prime Ministers for progressive meetings of the nation as a communal concern and accountability of resources received according to budgetary allocations from the federation account or national coffers for each region and supervised by the prime minister who ensures all governors under his or her region implements every project according to plan, schedule and allocated funds as budgeted. The governors in turn also ensure they work together with their respective local government chairmen or community leaders to impact the grassroots with progressive projects.

I would not need to delve more on individual workings of governments as I have proffered the main solution to our style of democracy that would wake up this "sleeping

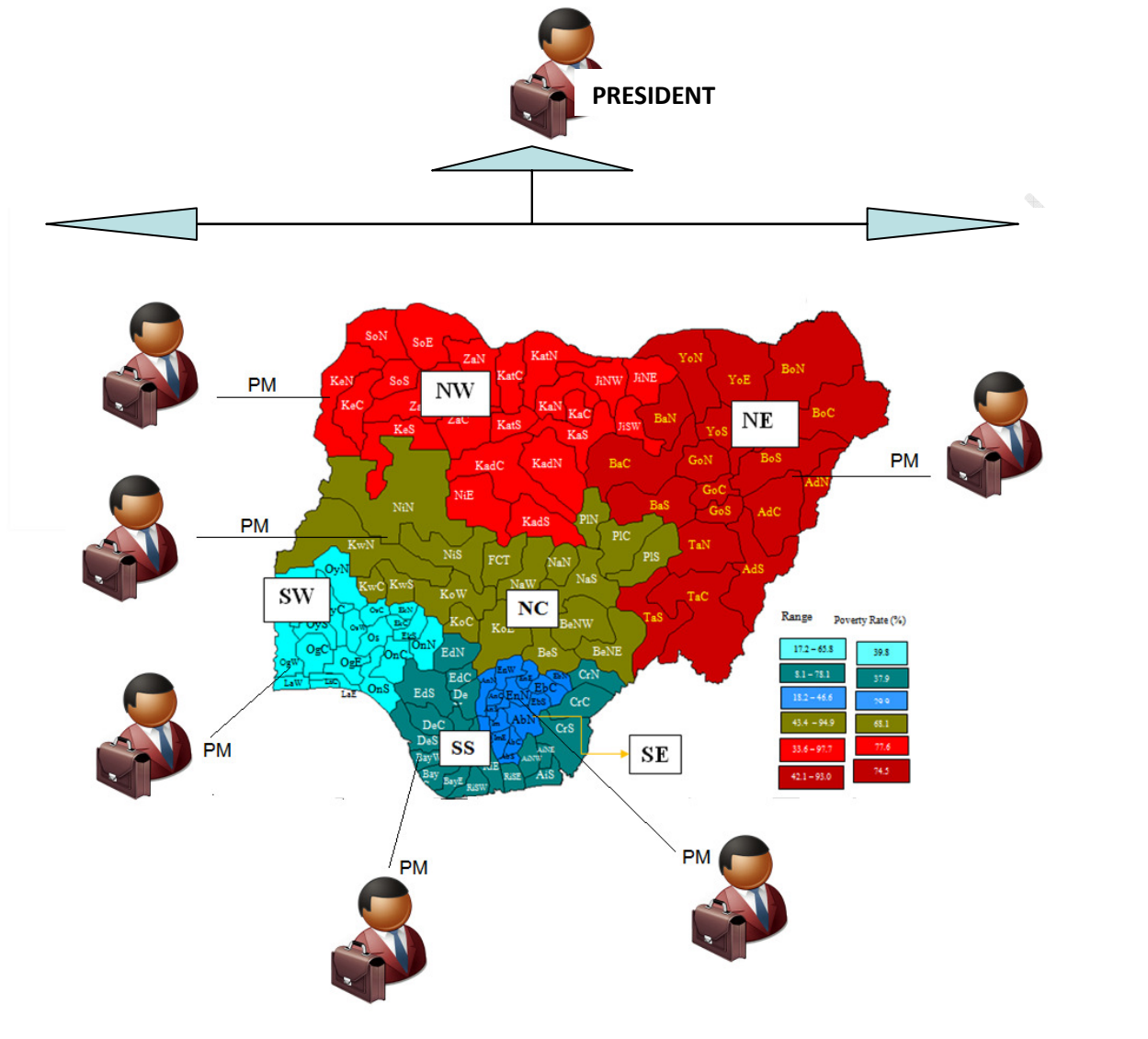
giant” and make the internal system of governance work seamlessly without any rancor or favour.

If I have offended anybody with this proposal or publication, then it wasn't intended as I am only contributing my quota to my beloved nation. It is my belief that if we do not wake up to our individual responsibilities to build a society where peace and justice shall reign free without the elements of: corruption, self aggrandizement, nepotism, terrorism, envy, hatred, incompetence, indiscipline, hypocrisy, mediocrity, deceitfulness and sheer wickedness then our dear country may degenerate to a state of anarchy and a failed state but God forbid as we pray in our pledges when we say “O God of creation, direct our noble cause and guide our leaders right and help our youths the truth to know, in love and honesty to grow and living just and true. Great lofty heights attain to build a nation where peace and justice shall reign.” “Our flag shall be a symbol, that truth and justice reign ...to hand on to our children a banner without stain. O God of all creation, help us to build a nation, where no man is oppressed, and so with peace and plenty, Nigeria may be blessed.

4.0 Organization Chart



5.0 PRESIDO – PARLIAMENTARY MAP CHART



- SE = South East – 5 States (Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu, Imo)
- SS = South South – 6 states (Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Rivers)
- SW = South West – 6 States (Ekiti, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Oyo)
- NE = North East – 6 States (Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, Yobe,)
- NW = North West – 7 States (Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, Zamfara)
- NC = North Central – 7 States (Benue, Kogi, Kwara, Nassarawa, Niger, Plateau, FCT)

6.0 Conclusion

I pray that we may all put aside all our personal interest and put the interest of Nigeria as a country as priority number one. The interest of Nigeria will translate to the interest of all. Today, the middle class is gradually thinning out as the gap between the rich and the poor has widened as Nigeria grows, so has the gap between the rich and poor. I include a random report which has some statistics below from the website of economic and financial times (eftngr.com) on their report by Tim Cooks, who wrote that “What matters more, the size of the pie or how many mouths it has to feed? It depends whether you’re eating pies or selling them. His report continues below:

Most of Nigeria’s 170 million people live below the poverty line, so many complained that they didn’t feel any richer when their oil-producing nation’s statistics bureau announced on Sunday that the economy had just replaced South Africa as the biggest on the continent. Nigeria’s gross domestic product (GDP) last year was rebased up to an estimate of nearly \$510bn – a “pie”, One-and-a-half times the size of South Africa’s, but feeling more than three times as many people.

Nigerian leaders hope that the statistical revamp will help them “sell” Africa’s most populous market to investors, including mall builders, manufacturers and retailers who are offering everything from processed foods and household appliances to luxury cars. However, development economists argue that their attention should be focused on improving the health education and incomes of ordinary Nigerians, many of whom are struggling to feed their families. Last year, the economist intelligence unit rated Nigeria the worst place for a child to be born out of 80 countries surveyed. “Really, what matters in the end is ‘Per Capita’, - how well our individuals are doing”, World Bank Chief Africa economist Francisco Ferreira said after the statistical change in Abuja; “I don’t want to rain on Nigeria’s parade ...but what matters are living standards for everyone.”

In GDP per capita terms, Nigeria is looking healthier than before rebasing Per Capita GDP which was \$2,688 last year, from an estimated \$1,437 in 2012. Yet that masks growing inequality; at about 60%, absolute poverty in Nigeria is stubbornly high despite five years of average 7% annual GDP growth. But are better living standards for all really what matters to investors looking to cash in on a big economy? On a per capita basis, Botswana, Mauritius and Seychelles are among Africa’s top five richest states. None has a population of more than 2 Million, so they are admired but cannot claim heavyweight status when it comes to competing with other African for retailers targeting customers at the bottom of the socio-economic pyramid, a national income spread around more households with lower GDP per capita might actually be a good thing, many economists argue.

If you are selling washing powder or fizzy drinks, better a large number of consumers on modest incomes than a small number of wealthy. There is only so much cola most people can drink. For Kenyan industrialist, Manu Chandaria, Chairman of Comcraft Group, which sells ironware, including corrugated roofs and pots and pans, Nigeria has massive potential. Comcraft is in 18 locations in Nigeria, despite the fact its Nigeria manager has been kidnapped three times by criminal gangs – a common risk facing businesses in Southern Nigeria. “Nigeria is just colossal”, he told the Reuters African summit in Nairobi. “Everybody needs to eat, everybody needs shelter....Anybody that brings in money needs a pot to cook in and they need a roof – so we are in the right place.”

Higher up that pyramid, living standards matter more. In this regard, South Africa, which still has poverty, but also a big middle class and an advanced consumer society, beats Nigeria. Africa’s top energy producer relies heavily on oil, which tends to concentrate wealth in elite at the top of the social scale – good for luxury goods firms like LVMH and Porsche, both of which have thriving operations in Nigeria. But retailers targeting a broader consumer class, says Nigeria still needs better infrastructure and a more diversified economy to achieve its full potential as a mass market. “Until the country invests more in infrastructure, invests more on other activities outside of oil, until that starts to develop the economy, I think the potential is not like it is in South Africa,” said Mark Turner, Africa Director for Massmart holdings, a unit of US retailer Wal-Mart. Massmart has two stores in Nigeria with another opening in the coming weeks; compared with 300 in South Africa.

Mr. Tuner said he could see the company opening as many as 15 stores in Nigeria, if the country could deepen development. Yet the market attraction of Nigeria’s growing middle class is already there. Shoprite just opened a store in Kano, despite the threat of an insurgency in the north and a Massmart Game store will soon join it there. But Nigeria’s growing inequalities add to “Political Risks, as a result of perceived marginalization” said Razia Khan, Chief Africa economist at Standard Chartered Bank. Unless something is done to lift Nigeria’s impoverished masses, the risks of social unrest, already being reaped in a bloody insurgency in the destitute northeast of the country and oil theft in the south will grow. Ms Khan said: “The pressure on the authorities to create some sort of social safety net in response will be significant.” – Reuters.

In closing, my remarks are that my proposed system of government will go a long way to position Nigeria as a true giant of Africa and improve implementation of governance at all levels thereby creating better living standards, bigger middle class, advanced consumer society, poverty eradication, negligible insurgency and closer gap between the rich and the poor and a more prosperous citizenry and nation under God.

This proposal is a communiqué to be fine tuned by dialogue as most ideology which changed our world for better was an initial idea well discussed. Great leaders know that the core of development is in taking well calculated risk as against “nothing ventured, nothing gained”... that’s why you don’t see any statues or monuments erected to honour cynics or arm chair critics but you see statues and monuments to honour only great world changers!

May I conclude by saying **“Nigeria has enough for every citizens ‘NEED’, but not enough for every citizens GREED. SO HELP US GOD.”**

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About Author



Engr. OluwaKayode Adedayo is an engineer with many years of experience in the information Technology and Telecommunications field though he read electrical engineering and started off with electrical engineering building services design consultancy before focusing on Information and Communication Technology which was his passion. He graduated from the University of Ilorin; Kwara State in 1992/93

He is a visionary technocrat with great ideas and a solution architect in ICT and e-governance.

He is married and blessed with two children.

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