

INEC Chairman, Professor Mahmood Yakubu (middle); National Secretary, Youth Party; Mr. Mujaheed Salisu Ahmad and the Chairman of Inter Party Advisory Council (IPAC), Hon. Mohammed Nalado at the presentation of the party's certificate.

INEC Registers Youth Party

On August 14, 2018, a journey and a dream that began about four years earlier was actualised as the Independent National Electoral Commission announced the registration of Youth Party.

According to the National Publicity Secretary of the party, Ms. Ilamosi Ekenimoh, the dream began when a few young Nigerians decided to come together to build a new political platform to serve and unite Nigerians.

Speaking at the party's headquarters, the Acting National Chair of the party, Mr. Suleiman Usman Yusuf, promised that the party would bring about a new dawn to Nigeria's politics with the cardinal agenda of the party which seeks to deliver quality basic education, universal healthcare, social housing, plus a commitment to internal democracy.

Mr Yusuf also allayed fears that the party was solely for the young people of the country, promising that the party

is open to everyone and would seek to improve the standard of living of all Nigerians, irrespective of age, ethnicity, religion or ideology.

He also confirmed that the party is present in about 28 states of the nation with over five thousand members before registration.

Youth Party Announces Election Primaries

Youth Party has released the schedule for the conduct of its Primary Elections in preparation for the 2019 general elections.

The process will run from August 20 until September 28, beginning with the sale of nomination forms and

concluding with the Presidential Primary. With Nomination and Expression of Interest forms available at the National Secretariat and state offices,

According to the Party's National Organising Secretary, Olusegun Adeniyi, the primaries would be conducted on the basis of One Member, One Vote (OMOV), with no

delegates or super delegates. He also confirmed that voting would be conducted electronically; online and SMS. The guidelines for the primaries and additional information are available on the Party's website.



Party members outside the INEC Headquarters for the Party Registration Certificate Collection Ceremony.

Youth Party Activities

1. The 8th National Executive Committee meeting of Youth Party held on July 28, 2018, at the National Headquarters, Abuja.
2. The Disciplinary Committee of Youth Party sat on July 28, 2018 to decide on an anti-party allegation by a petitioner. Following thorough investigation, the respondent was found liable to disciplinary action under Sections 62 (1) (f) of Youth Party's Consitution.

The Committee decided that the respondent:

- i. Be removed from position held in the Party
- ii. Be expelled from the party
- iii. Returns all Youth Party property in his possession
- iv. Immediately cease and desist from parading as a party

member.

v. Cease to use the Youth Party logo and other Youth Party paraphernalia on social media platforms

3. Members of Youth Party Abia State chapter held a meeting on August 3, 2018 in Abia State.
4. The Agbado/Oke-odo Local Council Development Area mobilisation team of Youth Party held a meeting on August 4, 2018, in Lagos State.
5. There was an emergency meeting of the National Executive Committee on August 5, 2018, at the National Headquarters, Abuja.

6. Mr. Chukwudi Adiukwu resigned as National Chair of Youth Party on August 5, 2018, and Mr. Suleiman Usman Yusuf was appointed Acting National Chair under Section 48 (2) of Youth Party's Constitution.

7. The 6th National Working Committee meeting of Youth Party was held on August 11, 2018, in Lagos.

8. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) announced the official registration of Youth Party on August 14, 2018.

9. Youth Party registration certificate collection ceremony was held on August 16, 2018.



Party members outside the INEC Headquarters for the Party Registration Certificate Collection Ceremony



L-R: Mr. Bamidele, Mr Jide, Mr. John, Mr. Tope, and Mr. Kayode at the Agbado/Oke-Odo Local Council Development Area mobilisation.

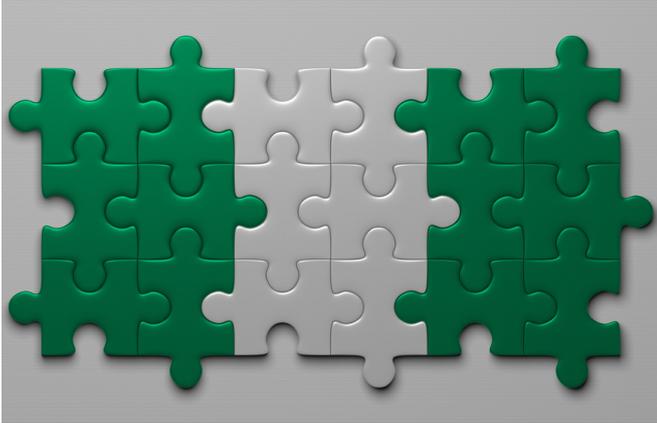
10. There was an emergency meeting of the National Working Committee on August 17, 2018.

11. The Inaugural Meeting of Economic Policy Sub-Committee was held on Saturday August 19, 2018, in Lagos.

12. Collection of Nomination Forms for Election Primaries commenced on August 12, 2018.



L-R: Onyekachi C. Okorie; Okorie Kenneth; Ndubuisi C. Churchill; Comrade Emmanuel Onuoha; Obioha Kingsley Enyinnaya; Ogba Ogbajie; Chukwudi Udo M.; Bright Chimezie; Wilson Okoronkwo; Promise Chinimso Ekechukwu; Ogbonna Harry; Egbohukwu Gideon; Chinasa Agu O.; Ezinne Okorie; UK Henry Reginald; Henry Israel; Michael O. Ibelegbu; Chisom Michael Glory; IHEME Florence Nkechi O.; Chikaodi H. Nwanaegu; Uchechukwu Uwalaka; and Chukwudi Udo M. at the Abia State chapter meeting.



Restructuring the Nation

by Zainab Olaitan

Restructuring, according to the Merriam-Webster's Dictionary, simply means to change the make-up, organisation or pattern of something. Restructuring, however, has a lot more meaning in the Nigerian setting. From devolving powers from the centre to federating units, to allowing states be financially autonomous, to operating a regional system of government.

Over all, the agreement from all these is that there is a fundamental problem with the governance structure of the country that needs solving. These problems include, but are not limited to, corruption, an ineffective law enforcement system, bad leadership, a too powerful centre, non-viable states, etc. This is why restructuring appears to be the topical solution.

Forms of Restructuring

Nigeria currently operates a federal structure with power shared between the centre and the federating units. However, the centre wielding more power than the component units has led to an imbalance. Devolution of power would mean some powers that are currently on the exclusive list being transferred to the concurrent or residual list.

The Federal Government performs many duties that can be delegated to the states, thus preventing a concentration of power at the centre and empowering States to be more efficient.

Another form of restructuring being touted is fiscal federalism and resource control, which occurs when states have the power to control the resources within their territory while remitting a particular percentage to the centre.

What obtains presently in Nigeria is the Federal Government controlling most of the resources while giving a certain percentage to the states. There is, however, an argument that states are in better position to make use of their resources for their development rather than receiving a meagre sum from the centre.

Fiscal federalism, according to Sir Kenneth Clinton Wheare, an Australian author and constitutional expert, should lead to competitive federalism where each unit pursues development at its own pace. What is available in Nigeria, however, is complementary federalism where the largesse of a few is used for the many.

It has been argued that for Nigeria to apply fiscal federalism, all the states will have to be merged into six regions with the states taking the status of development zones, as the six regions will become the federating units.

This arises from the thinking that during the First Republic, which many refer to as Nigeria's golden age, regionalism was in place with four autonomous regions that pursued development in their own way.

Also, it has been proposed that there should be the inclusion of the option of a referendum for secession in the Constitution to allow for self-determination. This is because some have claimed that the 1999 Constitution is faulty, as it was imposed on the country by the military regime, thus making it illegal and fraudulent.

Some have even gone further to assert that the constitution is the harbinger of all of Nigeria's problems and that as part of the restructuring agenda, a whole new constitution should be drafted by democratically-minded individuals.

Alignment with Party ideals

The Party aligns strongly with the idea of having autonomous federating units but not at the detriment of an effective centre. Devolution of power from the over-concentrated centre to the states is one of the major political reforms the party will embark on once in government.

In practical terms, Nigeria has 36 federating units with a centre. There should exist some form of autonomy conferred on them to be able to make some critical decisions as it affects their demography.

For instance, on policing, state policing would be the result of the devolution of powers. Presently, the Nigerian Police is centralised, operating more like a unitary system of government. This sort of structure makes it difficult for the force to combat crimes effectively. In a situation where we have state policing, the security burden on the centre for policing will reduce to a considerable extent.

However, if fiscal federalism and resource control were to happen right now, it would be detrimental because of the way the country is constituted-not all states are endowed with natural resources in commercial quantity or are financially buoyant. To force the states to sustain themselves on only what they earn will render some financially incapacitated.

Currently, we have states sharing from the largesse, with some unable to survive without bailout funds from the centre. In a situation where there is already a considerable level of development, fiscal federalism can be adopted. Resource control is not currently a good idea considering the inequality of resources accruable to all the states.

The inclusion of a referendum on self-determination into the constitution is one proposal that seems to disregard the system of representative government being practised. Each section of a state elects their representatives to represent and protect their interests in government.

Where this option of a referendum is introduced into the constitution, arbitrariness might set in, with different groups claiming that they are being marginalised, using

the constitution to back their right to secede. This isn't, however, to trivialise the struggles of secessionist groups, or to debunk the right to self-determination.

On regionalism, to clamour for autonomous regions is more like asking for a dummy Nigeria. Confederalism seeks to have a situation where the centre is weak and the units are powerful, rendering the centre helpless when units want to secede. This also defeats the essence of Nigeria being a federal state.

Our strength lies in us being one, unified, irrespective of our differences. We can have unity in our diversity instead of practising a system that will keep us apart.

Secondly, the fact that it seemed fine in the '60s doesn't guarantee it would work now. Merging 36 states into six regions isn't the issue. The question is: How will proper representation of the minorities within these regions be ensured without having the larger groups bully the smaller groups just as in the '60s?

For instance, in the northern region, the Hausa/Fulani was the dominant ethnic group, which also dominated the politics of the north, while overshadowing the other groups like the Kanuri, Tiv, Idoma etc. In the west, we had the Yoruba over the Midwestern groups. In the east, we had the Igbos over the Efik, Ibibios etc. The domination, at certain points, exploded into different crises. To the extent where all these happened, regionalism wouldn't be a good idea now considering the population explosion that has occurred over the past 50 years.

To also make the argument that the 1999 constitution is illegal and fraudulent is extreme, and to blame all misfortunes of the country on the document is being simplistic.

When, on November 11, 1998, Gen. Abdulsalami Abubakar inaugurated the constitution debate co-ordinating committee to champion the drafting of a new constitution, Justice Niki Tobi, a civilian, chaired the committee. This committee was made up entirely of civilians with no military personnel as a member. After consultations, the

committee recommended the adoption of 1979 constitution with a few amendments to it.

The 1979 constitution itself was drafted under the Muritala/Obasanjo transition program. This constitution was also the fruit of a constitution drafting committee headed by Chief F.R.A. Williams, another civilian, along with other non-military committee members.

To understand the 1999 constitution is to understand the 1979 one, which was a people's constitution. The idea of it being illegal, fraudulent, and imposed is incorrect.

Way forward

We strongly support that there be restructuring in terms of devolution of power on the basis of ensuring an obligation to reforming governmental structures at all levels, and to involve the youth in the political process.

We must guarantee and commit to functional federalism, one where there is a strong centre and equally strong states and local governments. To ensure this, the government must introduce constitutional amendments to

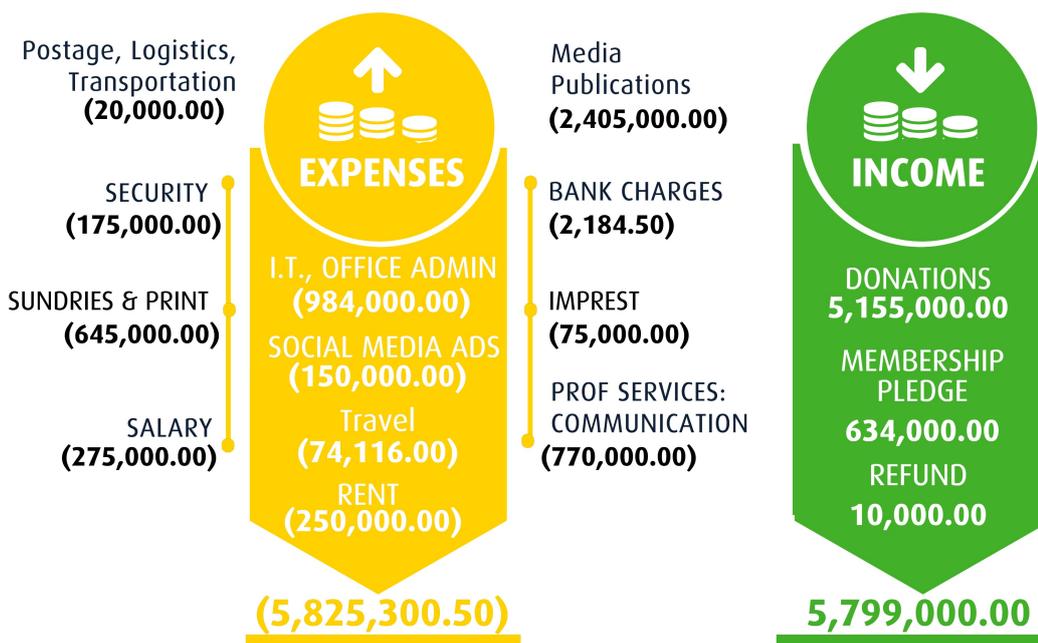
empower all levels of government, and devolve power from the centre, thus removing bureaucratic hurdles, and allowing states to independently harness their full potential.

More so, devolution of power will entrench interdependence between the centre and the federating units rather than over-dependence. As pointed out, fiscal federalism and resource control will pave way for an unequal situation amongst states, which is bad for national development.

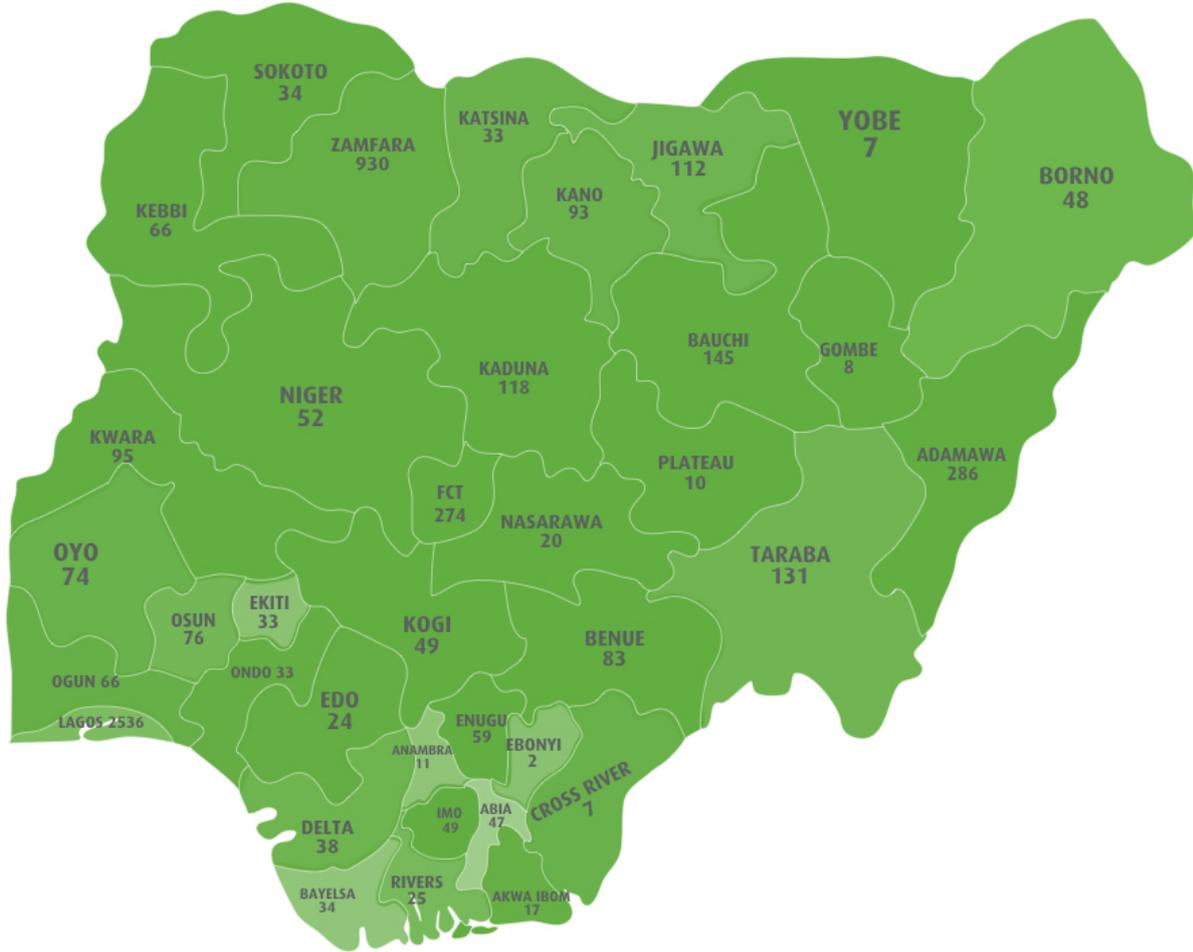
All states should have the potential to develop rather than leaving some out to dry. Regionalism cum confederalism isn't the way forward; it is like going six steps back in time. What we should work on is how to have a strong, unified, Nigeria where groups embrace their unique differences under the established federal structure.

Restructuring cannot holistically address the problems the country is facing; we need to identify the challenges within the system and tackle them.

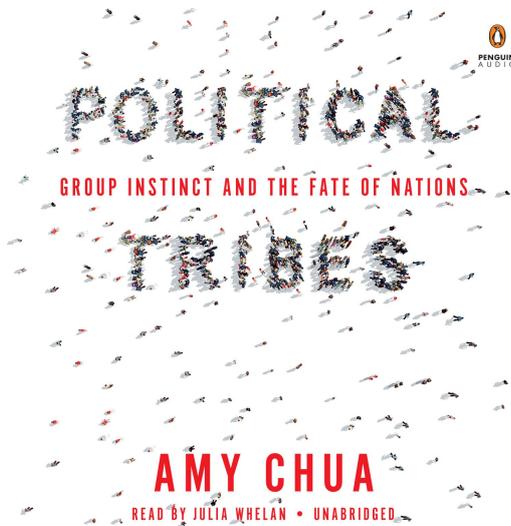
Financials For July 18, 2018 to August 31, 2018



Liabilities: 41,750.00



Total number of members as at August 14, 2018: 5,725



Political Tribes: Group Instinct and the Fate of Nations

by Amy Chua

Review by Olasumbo Ajibade

BOOK REVIEW

The book starts with an overview of the tribal nature of humans. In the words of the author, Amy Chua: "Humans are tribal, we need to belong to groups. We crave bonds and attachment, which is why we love clubs, teams, fraternities, family. Almost no one is a hermit. Even monks and friars belong to orders. But the tribal instinct is not just an instinct to belong. It is also an instinct to exclude." According to the author, the group identities that matter most are ethnic, regional, religious, sectarian, or clan based.

Tribalism is often about group belonging or bonds, and hostility to others who are perceived as non-members; this is why people will sacrifice, kill and even die for their groups. Tribalism affects the way we see things. In her words: "humans aren't just a little tribal. We're very tribal, and it distorts the way we think and feel."

The first chapter discusses American exceptionalism. The author argues that modern America has become a melting pot for people of all races and ethnic groups, which she terms a super-group because America seems to be the only country that has been able to incorporate multiple tribes into a single national identity.

The author further asserts, (in chapter 2, 3 and 4) that America's blindness to tribalism has had catastrophic impacts on its foreign policy. Starting with the Vietnam War, where most of Vietnam's capitalist class were members of the hated Chinese minorities.

In these chapters, she explains the concept of the "market-dominant-minority" to describe an ethnic minority that tends, under market conditions, to dominate economically, often to a starting extent, the poor indigenous majority around them. America believed it was fighting communism in Vietnam, while from a tribal politics perspective, the Vietnamese were fighting for economic freedom from the Chinese minorities who comprised 3% of the population but controlled as much as 80% percent of the private economy. This, of course, built resentment against them and the capitalism ideals America stood for.

Chua gives an in-depth analysis of how political tribalism has affected political decisions around the world. She used case studies of the divisive politics in Iraq (the Sunnis and Shias), Afghanistan, and racism in Venezuela, which all affect political outcomes.

The last chapters discuss how identity politics has invaded America's political landscape and seized both the American left and right based on racial discrimination and group identities. Every group now feels threatened: white and black, liberals and conservatives and so on.

She concludes the book by stating that there is a need to collectively find a national identity that transcends political tribes and is all-inclusive.

 **youthpartyng**
@youthparty_ng

The Youth Party will not allow political godfathers and kingmakers to circumvent the rule of internal democracy as enshrined in our Constitution. There will be no anointed candidates as our flag bearers.



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