



The National Chair, Mr. Chukwudi Adiukwu (middle); (L-R) National Secretary, Mr. Mujaheed Salisu Ahmad; Publicity Secretary, Ms. Ilamosi Ekenimoh; National Policy & Strategy Secretary, Mr. Wale Irokosu; and President, Student Youth Chapter, Mr. Bolaji Ogalu at the 5th National Working Committee Meeting.

## Youth Party Activities

1. A media parley between Youth Party officials and journalists from various media organisations held on June 26, 2018.
2. The 4th National Working Committee meeting of the Youth Party held on June 30, 2018, in Lagos.
3. The 5th National Working Committee meeting of the Youth Party held on July 14, 2018, in Lagos.
4. The Alimosho Local Government Area mobilisation team of Youth Party organised awareness activities in Ayobo, Lagos State.



(L-R) Mr. Nedu, jide, Mr. Philus Brown, Mr Dare, Smug, Mr. Moses, Mr. Doyin, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Ezekiel at the Alimosho Local Government Area mobilisation in Lagos State.



(L-R) The National Chair, Mr. Chukwudi Adiukwu and National Secretary, Mr. Mujaheed Salisu Ahmad at the 5th National Working Committee Meeting.



(L-R) National Secretary, Mr. Mujaheed Salisu Ahmad; Publicity Secretary, Ms. Ilamosi Ekenimoh; and President, Student Youth Chapter, Mr. Bolaji Ogalu at the 5th National Working Committee Meeting.



The National Chair, Mr. Chukwudi Adiukwu (middle); (L-R) National Policy & Strategy Secretary, Mr. Wale Irokosu; National Secretary, Mr. Mujaheed Salisu Ahmad; Publicity Secretary, Ms. Ilamosi Ekenimoh; and President Student Youth Chapter at the 5th National Working Committee Meeting.



(L-R) Mr. Akinbami, Mr. Doyin, Mr Nedu, Alhaja, Smug, Philus Brown, Mr. Toba, Mr. Eleto, Miss Funmi, Mr. Ceejay, Mr. Hammed, Mr. Dare and Mr. Ezekiel at the Alimosho Local Government Area mobilisation in Lagos State.



(L-R) Mr. Akinbami, Mr. Doyin, Mr. Nedu, Mr. Moses, Alhaja, Smug, Mr. Philus Brown, Mr. Toba, Mr. Jide, Miss Funmi, Mr. Ceejay, Mr. Hammed, Mr. Doyin and Mr. Johnson at the Alimosho Local Government Area mobilisation in Lagos State.



## THE DANGER OF HATE SPEECH

by Seun Makanjuola

In recent times, the Nigerian government; through the military, the Ministry of Information, Senate, and Presidency has continuously tried to clamp down on hate speech. Hate speech is a statement that attacks a person or group based on attributes such as race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, or gender.

The government's efforts followed the various attempts to heat up the polity by the likes of Nnamdi Kanu, Femi Fani-Kayode, Ango Abdullahi amongst others. Through their rhetoric, these individuals attempted to put Nigerian tribes at odds in a bid to divide the nation. Nnamdi Kanu, the leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra, even attempted to secede from Nigeria.

The Federal Government, in an attempt to check the spread of hate speech, declared it as an act of terror. A lot of outcry followed this, as people recalled events under the Buhari-led administration in the 1980s, when it clamped down heavily on civil society groups and the press. The infamous Decree 4 prohibited journalists from publishing any articles that were not in line with the views of the government of the day, and a number of human rights violations were committed under the guise of enforcing the decree.

Recently, it has been argued that the current government might see any form of criticism against it as hate speech. This article aims to highlight how hate speech poses a threat to the national security of Nigeria. It also challenges the government to state clearly what it classifies as hate speech.

The first time I listened to Radio Biafra, I immediately understood why the platform is criticised. Radio Biafra is a medium that continuously dispenses hate speech. It describes Nigeria as a zoo and promises its members that they will one day kill all those in the zoo.

People are allowed to seek self-determination, however it has to be done within the tenets of the rule of law. IPOB continues to argue that the government is trying to quell their agitation by labelling them as a terrorist group and the number one dispensers of hate speech in the nation. However, through Radio Biafra and various social media platforms, they indeed stir up the polity and there are fears that their rhetoric could lead to the breakout of another civil war.

IPOB and Nnamdi Kanu are not the only ones responsible for dissemination of hate speech. As mentioned earlier, others like Femi Fani-Kayode and Ango Abdullahi are also responsible. The rhetoric that these people spread to their followers is a recipe for disaster and that is why the government pushed to curb it before it becomes a national menace.

The Buhari-led administration has pushed for hate speech to be declared a criminal offence and also the establishment of special courts to prosecute people who spread such. The Nigerian Broadcasting Commission recently declared that media outlets would be fined and prosecuted for airing any divisive narrative on their platform.

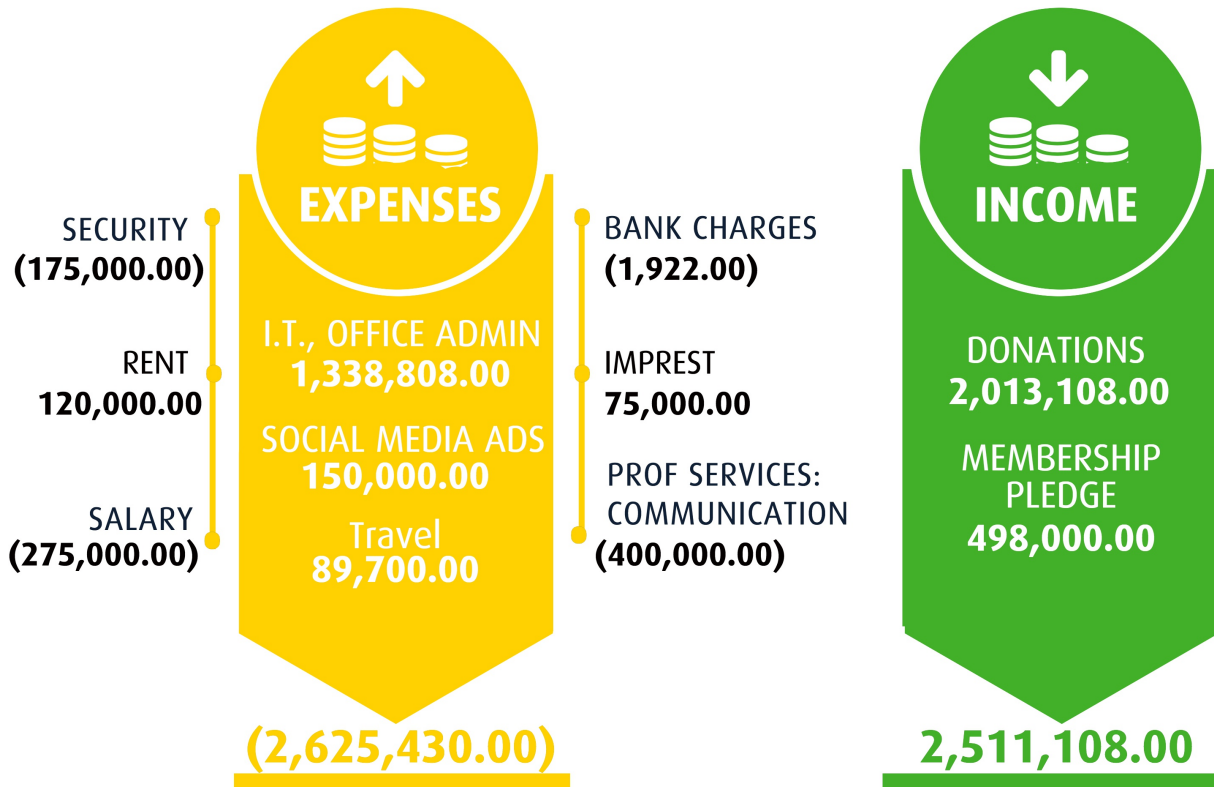
The government, however, needs to further explain what it classifies as hate speech so that security agencies don't go rogue and prosecute those who are just exercising their right to free speech. Hate speech refers to divisive narratives against people of a certain race, ethnic group or religion. In a country like Nigeria, hate speech is continuously used in relation to ethnicity.

Currently, Nigeria is a highly tribalistic society, and the poor approach of our elites and policymakers towards unity and

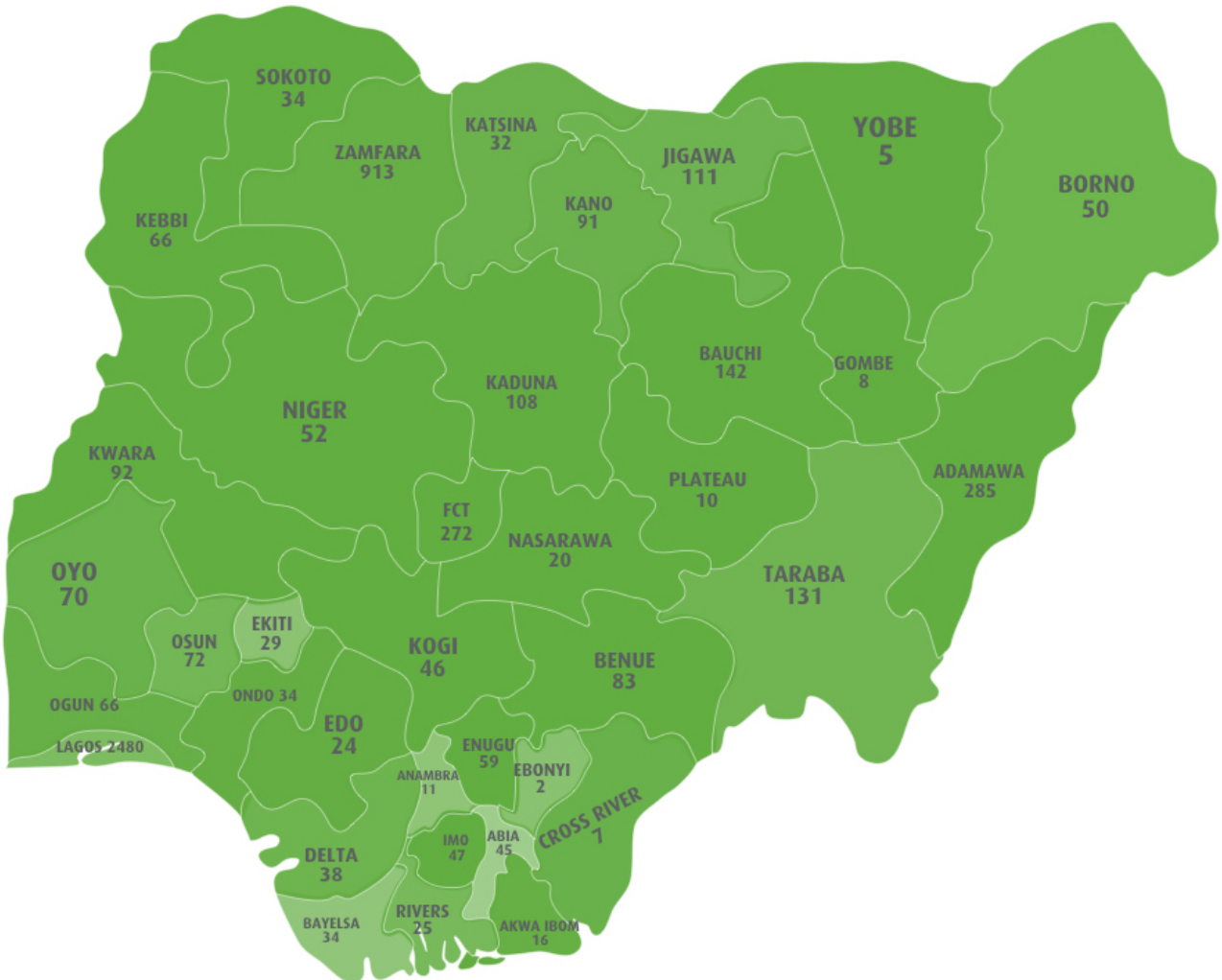
integration, has contributed to making us the way we are. In a bid to curb hate speech, I propose that people should be educated about our history and the essence of our diversity. Nigeria is a diverse country with many resources, ethnic groups, and tribes that can all complement one another. It is important to understand that we are better as a nation - only proper education will counter what organisations like IPOB spread.

Hate speech is divisive and detrimental to the development and unity of the country; therefore, we must all work together to curb it. We must work towards ways to close this divide not just through devolution of power but through educative means and the continuous promotion of a one Nigeria narrative by the elites.

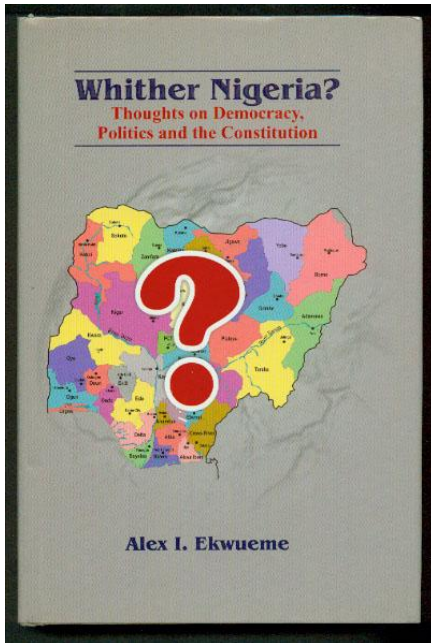
## Financials for June 18, 2018 - July 18, 2018



**Liabilities: 1,541,750.00**



**Total number of members as at July 18, 2018: 5,610**



## Whither Nigeria? Thoughts on Democracy, Politics and the Constitution by Alex I. Ekwueme Review by Olasumbo Ajibade

### BOOK REVIEW

Alex I. Ekwueme was elected Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in 1979, to serve alongside President Shehu Shagari. His book, *Whither Nigeria? Thoughts on Democracy, Politics and the Constitution* is a compilation of 22 papers presented by him at different conferences and at different times of our national history.

Ekwueme gives his in-depth observation of political happenings from the pre-independence era, the independence era, and the country's return to democracy on May 29, 1999.

The first paper in the collection, 'More Than A Government of National Consensus', presented on January 22, 1992, reflected the author's ideas on the structure of governance that would give Nigeria a stable polity. He suggested, based on his experience during his tenure as Vice President, that Nigeria should have a President and six Vice Presidents; one from each region/zone. He proposed that a Presidency made up of the President as chairman and six Vice Presidents as members would operate as a council on the basis of collegiality and true consensus.

Each Vice President would be saddled with a specific

executive responsibility that would cut across the various sectors such as the national economy, infrastructure, energy and more. He argued that this would mean no region would be marginalised and all hands would be on deck to develop the country.

He further recommended that the six Vice Presidents would be elected independently (of the President) from their regions.

In the remaining papers, he analyses the different political happenings that affected national integration and development. From the annulment of the June 12 elections, to the different constitutional conferences, the role of electoral bodies, the activities of political parties and the role of the military in Nigeria's politics.

Sir Alex I. Ekwueme was of the opinion that Nigeria at amalgamation, at independence, and at the time he compiled the book, has always been a collection of many nations or ethnic nationalities. He was hopeful, however, that some time in the 21st century, Nigeria would have successfully evolved from a "country" to a "nation".



True democracy starts from within the political parties.



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