

## A Little New Light on the Dark and Darkening Matter Called Security in Nigeria: Three and half Years After

One of Mr. President's three agenda deals with the economy. The president had promised to fix or revamp the economy in order to create opportunity for the youthful population in the country. When Mr. President made this promise in the numerous pre-election promises it was followed by others within the economy that included abolishing petroleum subsidy, reducing pump price of petrol to forty five naira (N45), diversifying the economy in order to diversify sources of revenue and the most controversial of all establishing parity between the dollar and the naira.

Within the context of what should be security for Nigeria, the focus on the economy represented the history, experience and reality (HER) aspect of my advocacy. This is because in the last three decades the economy has not work in the manner to create opportunity for most Nigerians. To this extent, the politics, social, cultural and other aspects of the fabric of Nigerian society has been affected by the non performance of the economy. The last three and half years of Mr. President's administration are remarkable in its inability to fulfil the promise on the economy.

Indeed the last three and half years has shattered the confidence of those Nigerians who believed in the character, competence and capacity of Mr. President in the management of public affairs. As Engineer Buba Galadima, President Buhari's former associate and critic number one had argued getting elected and performing as woefully as he has demystified the man or else when he dies his grave would become a pilgrim site!

The pump price has been hiked to N145 per litre, oil and gas still remain the premier export and foreign exchange earner for Nigeria, the most subsidy has been paid out in the last three and half years, the most numbers of jobs have been lost as opposed to created in the period and Nigeria slipped to becoming the poverty capital of the world! As the International Strategic Studies Association's report noted corruption has scaled the roof and the priority of military chiefs including the National Security Adviser was to prevent information leakage on the scale of theft within the military in name of fighting Boko Haram. As to the parity of the naira and dollar, Mr. President seeming idea that he will wave the magic wand to accomplish this feat did not come to pass. Officially the dollar to naira is N305 to N320 and unofficially it is one dollar to N370.

After three and half years in power, the jury on Mr. President's three agenda of securing Nigeria, fighting a relentless war against corruption and revamping the economy had

reached decision. This decision is the subjects of FAKE news churn out by the government and regime supporters while discerning Nigerians' voices are suppressed by the control of information put in place using various means. Nigerians are speaking out though and if Mr. President is re-elected come February, it is not because he has performed or promised to do better with the new mandate. It is because religion, ethnicity and the refusal of Nigerians to speak outside the two known political parties allowed this. It is also because Nigerians are content with emotional and sentimental satisfaction from their elected officials.

One view on the conduct of Mr. President and his administration in the last three and half years and the subject of the series shining light on the darkening issue of security is the post I received on whatsapp titled "this is unbelievable".

**Mr. B:** [1/4, 10:18 PM]: Beloved brother, I don't want to make you sad but just take a look. If you have seen it before, take a 2nd look.

#### NAIRA EXCHANGE RATE vs AFRICAN COUNTRIES:

South Africa: Rand 1= 79 Naira

Angola: 1 kwanza = 12 Naira

Botswana: 1 Pula = 28 Naira

Cape Verde: 1 Escudo = 8 Naira

Algeria: 1 Dinar = 12 Naira

Egypt: 1 Pound = 35 Naira

Eritrea: 1 Nakata = 18 Naira

Ethiopia: 1 Birr = 19 Naira

Ghana: 1 Cedi = 56 Naira

Gambia 1 Dalasi = 9 Naira

Kenya: 1 shilling = 6 Naira

Liberia: 1 Dinar = 8 Naira

Lesotho: 1 Loti = 19 Naira

Libya: 1 Dinar = 156 Naira

Morocco: 1 Dirham = 176 Naira

Madagascar: 1 Ariary = 14 Naira

Mauritius: 1 Rupee = 16 Naira

Malawi: 1 Kwacha = 21 Naira

Mozambique: 1 Metical = 24 Naira

Namibia: 1 Dollar = 32 Naira

Seychelles: 1 Rupee = 22 Naira

Sudan: 1 pound = 42 Naira

Swaziland: = 1 Lilangeri = 19 Naira

Tunisia: 1 Dinar = 150 Naira

Zambia: 1 kwacha = 28 Naira

Even the worst economies of Africa now have more valuable Exchange rate than us.

As at today \$1 = N370

€1 = N450

£1 = N540

N1,000,000 is less than \$4000.

...and some think that we have not reached the break point?  
Why una no wan join protest??

Putin (Russia): Lawyer      Trump (America): Economics degree

Merkel (Germany): PhD physical chemistry

Xi Jinping (China): Chemical engineering and Doctor of Law

Buhari (Nigeria): WAEC not found

Yet, somebody wants a growing economy under Buhari. Only clowns and herdsmen can expect such!!!...naija can never develop unless it is restructured... I weep everyday for my suffering and hungry friends and relatives. Those who put us in this mess will surely pay for it...

**My Response:** [1/5, 9:09 AM]: This is education not making one sad. We are the only or among the few countries in the sub-region content with SENTIMENTAL and EMOTIONAL satisfaction from those we elected into public offices to represent us. Banish the thought of protest for now and the foreseeable future because we have not suffered enough yet.

And to issue of ever developing, Nigerians see reality differently and until and unless we begin to see reality the same - and I doubt we ever will with the north keeping two third of its people out of school and deeply embedded in Islamic religiosity - we will never developed regardless of our immense human and material endowment.

The option is regionalization or we go our different ways. The latter is the subject of my inaugural lecture and it is focused on the most unprepared of the regions in Nigeria - the Middle Belt of Nigeria.

This is to wish Josh Good, Better and Best of 2019!

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This is where Nigeria stands as far as its economic performance under the leadership of President Buhari is concerned. Nigeria's economy is not performing. The exchange rate is a reflection of this non performance.

I have a different idea about academic qualification as central to competence and capability. Buhari may have a missing WAEC certificate but not everyone in that administration has this problem. If the president were to be a good manager of men, he can recruit the best brains to manage the economy for Nigeria. As I argued in my submission in the article "Muhammadu Buhari: Change's Lone Wolf?", the odds were stacked against the President largely because of his age, health and the motley crowd with varied intentions constituting the ruling coalition called the All Progressives Congress (APC) and as recently revealed his deficiency as manager of human resources in his entire public service career. It has been argued that he has never been in charge at any time in his entire public service.

To this end, those with the Diploma, HND, BA, BSc, MA, MSc and PhD certificates, age, health and purpose surrounding the President have managed the economy in order to be beneficial to their interest. If Nigerians are bleeding because of the non performance of the economy, these officials around the President are lining their pockets in their various roles in the administration. The records are there to corroborate this view. Most Nigerians are in agreement that the scale of corruption under the not-seeing and not-hearing president is mind boggling.

Would Nigerians protest? I doubt if the protest culture is part of the Nigerian DNA. My view is that we have not suffered enough and to boot we are content with emotional and sentimental satisfaction as our gains from democracy. Perhaps if we suffer some more and enough we will discard this perspective of gains and replace it with the tangible decided by how well we live. Only then will Nigerians begin to protest. Only then will Nigerians begin to understand what security means.

Has it ever been the case that those whose mismanagement created the enabling environment for the mess in the economy get to pay? Or that they are rewarded with more opportunity? The state and the government have never shown any determination individually or as partners to work to ensure that those who ran foul of the law pay for their misdeeds. The state in Nigeria is without firm foundation in idea, institutions and thus physical base. Thus the state has never demonstrated any independence in its action. The state has always been at the disposal of the government in power at any time and cannot be counted. This is the state of the state in Nigeria.

The government in place since 2015 came at the behest of most Nigerians' displeasure with the corruption in the system. Over three years down the line, the government and the state are singing the same tune as they condone corruption in the polity. The state

watched and is watching as the government trampled and is trampling on the independence of the legislature and the judiciary. With elections only days away, the executive is on the prowl against the judiciary even when in procedure and timing, its case is suspect. The instrumentality for the action of the executive is the resource of the state. This action constitutes corruption in the expanded form even though the administration only committed itself to fighting the limited type of corruption or theft of public fund.

Since the political economy of nationalities or the major nationalities has ensured that not all Nigerians see things in the same way to enable them act in the same way to addressing common problem, the option left for the development of this country in order for the country to remain one is decentralisation with a weakened centre and strong autonomous regions. This will enable each region manage its affairs within the push and pull of its people and resources while working for the common good at the centre.

To deny this option as has been the attitude of administration after administration is to increase the prospect of implosion that will be messy and ugly for the constituent countries post Nigeria. Indeed this option of preparing for a post Nigeria is not lost on other regions of Nigeria except perhaps the Middle Belt. Nationalities in Nigeria using the regions have had a trial run of this option in challenging the physical base of Nigeria at different times. Unlike the other regions – north, east, west and Niger Delta – that have one leg inside Nigeria and one leg outside Nigeria, the Middle Belt alone has two legs inside Nigeria. This is not an option for the Middle Belt amidst the subtle preparation around. In the inaction and prevarication of the government of Nigeria, they are directly or indirectly making the prospect of one of these options possible.

Fixing the economy and creating opportunity which is the security most Nigerians and Nigeria need is unlikely in the prevailing All Progressives Congress administration even if the APC and President Buhari get a second term. Indeed fixing the economy and creating the security most Nigerians and Nigeria need is beyond the APC coalition. Not even the administration of the PDP under a President Atiku Abubakar can redeem the economy creating the security most Nigerians and Nigeria need. As at this moment, these are the two options Nigerians are considering as they seemed oblivious of the other political parties and what they have to offer.

The recent campaign statement of Alhaji Atiku Abubakar in Akure where he posited that “insecurity was responsible for economic non performance” demonstrated clearly the perspective of security held by most Nigerians. This view of Alhaji Abubakar is self evident for Mr. President and others campaigning on the issue of security. The reference to

security is the military, intelligence and law enforcement or MILE type. In other words, if you fix this MILE type security, the economy will begin to perform. So much has been spent on the MILE and so much is being expended on the MILE given every opportunity such as the elections yet this security is nowhere near fixing and working. Alhaji Atiku Abubakar's claim on security is farther from the truth.

The economy is the foundation of security as fixing the economy will impact on all facets of Nigerians' life including the military, intelligence and law enforcement. An examination of Nigeria's history, experience and reality (HER) demonstrates that getting the economy working is central to resolving other security issues confronting Nigeria. Indeed when the economy begins to deliver opportunity for most Nigerians in the short, medium and long term, the MILE will have little or no work to do. This is because the social crisis occasioned by the consistent non performance of the economy that represents the MILE job description would have been reduced significantly.

Alhaji Abubakar's view on security – representing those of the elite and most Nigerians – demonstrated the need to declare emergency on security in order to resolve the issue of the philosophy (nature, meaning and purpose) of security in Nigeria.

Three and half years down the road, Mr. President and the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) coalition have not the faintest idea of the security most Nigerians need in order to begin the process of fixing other facets of the multifaceted issue called security. Not even in the minimalist security i.e. the MILE perspective to which they claimed expertise have they been able to secure most Nigerians and Nigeria.