

Senator Abdullahi Adamu's Lame Ducked Days as National Chairman Officially Starts with the End of the Convention

It was not an unflattering impression on Muhammadu Buhari's style of leadership in the article "Going Forward President" written by CCO.

The article will form part of the compendium of snapshots from many analysts and from diverse perspectives which will represent the hot air of a public figure called Muhammadu Buhari that straddle the Nigerian landscape of the last forty years.

The concern of this article is not with Buhari but with the many individuals that profited from the hot air's seeming Midas touch. One of these is the incumbent national chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Senator Abdullahi Adamu.

For Abdullahi Adamu's character, the current position of national chairman would be his last office of substance, in his self style never-losing-an-election-in-his-forty-years sojourn-in-politics. If the All Progressives Congress win the Presidency in 2023, under his leadership, Senator Adamu may transit into political retirement, a step he took by opting to head the Party instead of running for the senate seat again, to a remote country as ambassador, if the GOD allow him to see that day.

Senator Adamu's outing in the just concluded party primary elections is his albatross that would end his self styled glorious outing in politics. It will leave whatever legacies he claimed for self in the four decades in politics in shambles. Not that there is any legacies of legacies is defined in improvement of lives and in the creation of institutions in the constituencies where he presided over.

Senator Adamu's politics and public service was of the northern conservative type and to have found himself in a progressive party, in the lead up to the 1999 transition, represented the stuff of de-ideologisation that characterised politicians and politics in much of Nigeria. Senator Adamu's return to the All Progressives Congress, a conservative party of sort, complete the full cycle of his political career, following the pretence that signified his sojourn in the Peoples Democratic Party from 1999 to 2015.

As Governor and in the lead up to the first transition of power in 2007, Senator Adamu did not hide his desire for national leadership either as president or vice president to succeed President Olusegun Obasanjo. In this he courted individuals and institutions that will give him national visibility and committed the resources of Nasarawa State, meant for the development of the peoples and State, to the pursuit of this ambition.

Thus Senator Adamu, suffused in and blinded by ambition, misread the politics of Nigeria, to his own peril and the impoverishment of his people and State. It is similar to what we are witnessing today in Ortom and Benue State. Governor Samuel Ortom, covers his incompetence and misplace priority back in Benue State, in his stance as Mr President's

foremost opposition. The resources of Benue State have been committed to chasing an impervious and insensitive President Buhari while Benue people continued to endure pains and deaths.

For Senator Adamu, the politics of Nigeria designated him and his region minority, in most if not all permutations. One of these permutations –religion– was decisive in his making and his ability to get and keep power in Nasarawa State. No individual exploited the potential of religion in his political make as Senator Adamu had particularly in the lead to the creation of Nasarawa State in 1996 and in the last twenty three years of representative rule in Nigeria.

It was true that power was set to go to the North. But it was also true that it was not Senator Adamu's north that was destined to get this power. It was true that whenever power shifted to the north, it was going to favour northern Muslim. Again, it was also true that it was not Senator Adamu's own type of northern Muslim that will benefit from the shift. It was true that President Obasanjo seemingly favoured the then Governor Adamu, in his numerous schemes. It was also true that President Obasanjo did orchestrate numerous schemes in the period in question.

However, President Obasanjo did favour other persons in the period not from the then Governor Adamu's own region and religion. President Obasanjo operated a triple entendre during his second term. President Obasanjo kept several of his cards to his chest including his third term bid and loyalty to the machinery on whose back he rode to power in 1999. The latter was crucial not only because of the dynamics of Nigeria's politics of which he was one of its architects. It was also because his region rejected him during his first term and the support of the far north was crucial in his presidency.

Senator Abdullahi Adamu misread all these and/or ignored these to his utter consternation as he was swept into irrelevance by the process that unfolded. Flat broke by his misdirected squandermania and business misadventures and without political relevance in the new scheme post Obasanjo, Senator Adamu was thrust into political wilderness to begin the process of launching a political comeback. He did but this time it was tailored made to the requirements of his constituencies. Senator Adamu's previous national credential crashed. The old sayings that all politics is local took hold this time.

Senator Adamu joined the coalition of parties that formed the power seeking agenda-bereft All Progressives Congress (APC) in preparation for the 2015 general elections. He contested for the Nasarawa West senatorial seat which he won in 2015. He again re-contested for the seat in 2019 and won – but only just. This was because he fought stiff competition locally using all means at his disposal on the one hand and on the other hand fend off the government's selective attack dogs'– the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission – inquisition into his stewardship of Nasarawa State where he was unable to account for billions of naira of public resources entrusted in his custody as the governor of Nasarawa State.

Senator Adamu, in order to fend off local and government opposition, became Nasarawa State's number one Buharist including taking the title of Sarkin Yakin Buhari.

It would be recalled that in the lead up to the inauguration of the new government in 2015, President-elect Buhari and Senator-elect Adamu were the first to occupy seats at the Eagle Square, sitting distant and not communicating with each other.

From the television footage of the two personalities indicating their distance and not even talking to each other, Senator Adamu's stance against the critics of the lacklustre performance of President Buhari, on the floor of the Senate, would seemingly warm the Senator into the President and some of his centres of power confidence.

The Presidency of Buhari has been characterised by numerous centres of power each claiming to have the ears of Mr President and each seemingly having its way. Mr President has allowed whichever centre that emerged dominant in terms of pushing policies to prevail. It was one of these structures that gave birth to Senator Adamu's emergence as the APC national chairman.

Senator Adamu chose to play along the seeming rule by engineering his own centre of power into existence, in the competing centres of power which, unknown to him, factored into consideration region, religion and prior association with the President before the birth of the power coalition called the APC.

The APC convention had been factionalised by the competing power centres agenda pushing the candidature of different persons vying for the presidential nomination of the Party even against the tradition of rotation. There was also Mr President's obsession with consensus candidacy clause which dogged the signing of the Electoral Act. There was similar trend in the opposition PDP. All these significantly affected the tradition of power shift in both parties. There was degree of immense reluctance of the shift to the South in the ruling APC until some of the power centres prevailed. The PDP rationalised and renege on this.

This was the climate and theatre that gave birth to the national chairman's attempt to pull a coup, as one of the power centres, in the tradition that characterised the Buhari presidency of the last seven years, when he announced the Senate President, Mr Ahmed Lawan, as the Party's consensus candidate, with the consent of President Buhari.

Senator Adamu's announcement of Senator Lawan as consensus candidate for the APC backed fired badly. The rival power centres rallied and overturn the decision with Mr President denying ever endorsing anyone as consensus candidate. Mr President argued that while he preferred consensus type process which reduced rancour and division within the Party, the contest should be opened to all those interested in the race.

Senator Adamu's attempt to payback Mr Lawan's role in his emergence as national chairman did not succeed. Both Senators Adamu and Lawan are on the losing side of today's power permutations of the dominant faction of the APC. The Senate President lost his seat in Yobe North and his attempt to have his name entered into the race failed. Senator Adamu's handling of the matter has earned him plenty enemies not least of all the Party's eventual presidential candidate.

At home, Senator Adamu did not come out well as he mismanaged the election into his vacated seat leaving bitter taste in the mouth of other contestants which is set to affect the fortunes of the Party in the area. His preferred candidate for the seat is a political neophyte currently dogged by numerous petitions.

Outside the State and his Nasarawa West senatorial District, Senator Adamu, as national chairman, has lots of baggage to his disadvantage. The end of the Convention demonstrated this clearly. The symbolic handover of the Party's flag to the eventual winner of the race represented one pointer to this state of affairs. There goes the curtain raiser of Abdullahi Adamu's chairmanship and public service.

As I noted in the preceding, if his Party wins the presidency in 2023, with him holding on as chairman, it will only be for awhile before the President-elect initiate the Banana pill treatment to end his terms. If he is lucky, the President will consider him for an ambassadorial position in one remote outpost assuming he didn't go before then for some other reasons and/or because nature called.