

Jega:

Nigeria is a failing state, must be restructured before 2027

Nigeria is not a failed state but a failing state and something urgent must be done to restructure the country before the 2027 general elections. This was the verdict of former Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Attahiru Jega, at the maiden convocation of the Bauchi State University, Gadau. Giving reasons for his calls for the restructuring of the country before 2027, he insisted that Nigeria would be considered a failed state if it does not provide for the security, welfare and basic needs of its citizens. Jega affirmed his position on the state of the country's political economy while

constitutional reforms, the objectives of which should be to deconcentrate powers and resources from the federal tier and to spread them to those of the state and local governments. "In doing this, best practices could be learnt from model federations, such as India, Canada and the USA in the areas of revenue generation and sharing and adapted to our local context and circumstances," he was quoted to have in a report by Freedom Online.

He added that there is no need for the creation of additional states and believes decentralising resources will reduce the cost of governance. To

address the systemic and governance challenges, Jega recommended the amendment of the Electoral Act. "Amend the Electoral Act 2022, so as to remarkably improve upon the legal framework for future elections with integrity. In particular, pay attention to reforming the role of political parties in the leadership recruitment and candidate selection processes," he said. According to him, reforms should be pursued to improve and protect the integrity of the judiciary, and there must be a way of insulating it from the corruptive politics of electoral dispute resolution through litigation. He also called for an improvement in the

appointment process of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). This, he argued, will protect it from capture by crooked politicians and partisan pressures and influences. The former INEC boss equally advocated a constitutional amendment to recognise equal rights of citizens, irrespective of ethnicity while recommending solutions to the state's role in safeguarding the citizens.



delivering a lecture – "Safeguarding Nigeria's Future: Prioritizing Citizen's Welfare and Security Amidst Challenges". "I don't believe Nigeria is a failed state but we must realise that Nigeria is a failing state and if we put it in jeopardy and don't safeguard it, then the worst can happen. "The profound challenges, which currently bedevil Nigeria, can be said to be structural, systemic and also related to value orientation. "Before 2027, some restructuring of the Nigerian federation should be embarked upon through evidence-based