



Nigeria @ 62

WHAT MANNER OF GIANT?

Public Debt stock hit 42.84 trillion

NIGERIA'S FUTURE WILL BE GREAT, ...Osinbajo

As Nigeria marks its 62nd anniversary of independence, there is a general atmosphere of despondency, calmness and lack luster excitement as its citizens are grappling with high cost of living in the midst of fears and insecurity that pervades the land. It is also an age of anxiety, with many measures of Nigeria's socioeconomic progress painting a picture of a nation in great distress. Nigeria's economy has been stagnant, growing at less than 1% cumulatively during the past seven years, far below population growth of 2.6%. It also has about 40% of the population of about 200 million living below the poverty line. The country is equally beset by security and political challenges. Boko Haram insurgents and banditry still operate in the North-East and North-West while kidnappings and other forms of violent crimes pervade unabatedly across the country.

Despite these problems, Nigeria has made substantial socio-economic progress, at least since 1999 when it returned to democracy after decades of military rule. It is

also a country with huge resources that have yet to be fully tapped. The biggest of these is Nigeria's educated citizens. The country had a literate population of less than 5% at independence. Now, more than 60% of the population is literate. Also enrolment into tertiary education keeps increasing. A review of the past six decades shows that the Fourth Republic, which took off in 1999, has been Nigeria's golden era in terms of economic and social indicators. This reality is, however, a difficult one to present to the millions of unemployed who are out of work and struggling to cope with inflationary pressures on food and other basic livelihood requirements. Since 1999, Nigeria's economy has grown more than sevenfold. A big chunk of this is explained by the rebasing of the economy in 2014. It was found that the economy was 60% bigger than previous estimates.

Nigeria's economic difficulties started in the mid-2010s since her fortunes are closely aligned with oil prices

which showed a sharp decline between 2014 and 2016. The World Bank has described the 70% drop during that period as one of the three biggest declines since World War II, and the longest lasting since the supply-driven collapse of 1986. In response, Nigeria's economy, which had recorded an average growth rate of 6.68% between 1999 and 2015, has plunged in and out of negative figures since 2016. Within this period, it entered recession twice. Cumulative growth since 2016 has averaged below 1% as Nigeria has taken steps to reduce its reliance on oil. These measures include revival of the agricultural sector as well as reducing government reliance on oil revenues by tax revenue from other sources. These are yet to pay off, as the

To be honest, the prospect of another one million Nigerians in the poverty trap is more than scary. Yet it is very likely to materialize because the current administration is lethargic and clueless about urgent matters. It routinely rejects criticism, no matter how evidence-based, putting Nigeria's economic woes squarely at the doorstep of its predecessors or, occasionally, middlemen. To achieve the inglorious record of being the world's poverty capital in 2018, Nigeria overtook India, a country with a population of over 1.3 billion people.

COVID-19 pandemic has aggravated the economic downturn, plunging more into unemployment and poverty. Before 2014, Nigeria had been using the 1990 prices and the composition of economy to determine its size. Yet, a lot had changed since then. For example, telecommunications had grown substantially with the introduction of mobile telephony. Nollywood, Nigeria's movie industry, has also expanded and morphed into a more professionally organized and running sector. Nigeria's government has invested in agriculture and has articulated economic programmes for other sectors but progress has been hampered by inflationary pressure fluctuations in oil prices and a weak currency. Government's inability to arrest the security crises in several states has also affected agricultural productivity. Other factors include government's inability to articulate a clear economic agenda for the country. In addition, its monetary and fiscal policies favoring dual exchange rates, and restrictions on foreign trade through border closures have limited recovery and growth.

According to GDP report by National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria Gross Domestic Product grew by 3.54% year on year in real terms in the second quarter of 2022 an improvement compared to 3.11% growth recorded in the previous quarter. The country is already facing serious fiscal problems with its rising budget deficit debt and shrinking revenue. Nigeria's fiscal position worsened in the first months of the year as the cost of repaying debt surpassed the government revenue in the first quarter of 2022. The country's economic potentials are constrained by many structural issues including inadequate infrastructure, tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade, obstacles to investment, lack of confidence in currency valuation and limited foreign exchange capacity. Some of the causes of economic decline in Nigeria among others include, high inflation, a general rise in prices of goods and services leading to low purchasing, accumulation of debt services especially foreign debt. High interest rate discourages investors, fall in wages, fall in aggregate demand. As at today Nigeria economic freedom score is 54.4 making its economy the 124th freest in the 2022 index. Nigeria is ranked 23rd among 47 countries in the sub-Saharan African region and its overall score is above the regional average but below the world average.

According to Nigeria Development update by the World Bank in June 2022 the inflation in Nigeria is already one of the highest in the world before the war in Ukraine and is likely to increase further due to the rise in price particularly food. The report also stated that the inflationary pressure will be compounded by fiscal pressures Nigerians will face this year because of the ballooning cost of gasoline subsidies at time when oil production continues to be fluctuating.

As may be naturally expected, the recent reports from the World Bank regarding poverty in Nigeria are distressing. The bank projects that before this year runs out, an additional one million Nigerians will become trapped in poverty. According to it, inflation is likely to aggravate the poverty situation in the country. The financial organisation made the projection in its latest Nigeria Development Update. The report titled 'The continuing urgency of business unusual' indicated that inflation in Nigeria, already one of the highest in the world before the war in Ukraine will increase further as a result of the rise in global fuel and food prices caused by the war. The one million Nigerians to fall into the poverty trap by the end of 2022 are in addition to the "six million Nigerians that were already predicted to fall into poverty this year because of the rise in prices, particularly food prices." Quite alarmingly, Nigeria is in a paradoxical situation where growth prospects have improved, but inflationary and fiscal pressures have also increased considerably, making the economy more vulnerable. The situation, says the apex global bank, arises from the ballooning cost of

gasoline subsidies at a time when oil production continues to decline. Hence Nigeria, for the first time since its return to democracy, is alone amongst major oil exporters and is unlikely to benefit fiscally from the windfall opportunity created by higher global oil prices.

To be honest, the prospect of another one million Nigerians in the poverty trap is more than scary. Yet it is very likely to materialize because the current administration is lethargic and clueless about urgent matters. It routinely rejects criticism, no matter how evidence-based, putting Nigeria's economic woes squarely at the doorstep of its predecessors or, occasionally, middlemen. To achieve the inglorious record of being the world's poverty capital in 2018, Nigeria overtook India, a country with a population of over 1.3 billion people. But in its reaction to the June 2018 Brookings Institution report, the Federal Government dismissed it on the grounds that it was compiled when the country was in the throes of what it called the worst economic recession in 29 years. Worse still, rather than creating jobs, the government has had to contend with incessant job losses. Statistics by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) consistently point to increasing unemployment and underemployment rates, indicating that the domestic labour market is fragile and that economic growth has not been strong enough to provide employment.

It has taken the administration forever to figure out how to fix the country's refineries in order to stop the importation of refined crude oil. Again, the fact is well known that a lot of the poor indices in the economy are related to the pervasive insecurity which is fast crippling food production, but it has not addressed insecurity decisively. It is also incontestable that the economy is plagued with an extremely low production profile and the country imports even essential commodities. The present administration, together with its lackluster Central Bank, does not seem to care very much. It cannot be a thing of joy that the poverty rate in Nigeria moved from 15 per cent at independence in 1960 to 50 per cent in 2021 even as the CBN Governor, Mr. Godwin Emefiele, insinuated that Nigeria might never be able to solve its infrastructure challenges. Emefiele was quoting a Moody's report which concluded that Nigeria needed to spend about \$3.3 trillion in capital expenditure over the next 30 years or \$1.1 trillion a decade to close its infrastructure deficit. This amounts to \$100 billion (N40 trillion) per annum or 28 per cent of Nigeria's GDP of N144 trillion, although it spent just about \$100 billion on infrastructure provision in the last decade. **The current level of infrastructure deficit is of course a major constraint to economic development and the attainment of a growth average rate of at least five to seven per cent, which is required to boost productivity and sustainable growth for businesses. Yet the government typically borrows to fund recurrent expenditure, spending money that the country has not earned. 'As we have said time and again, the government needs to improve the economic**

The current level of infrastructure deficit is of course a major constraint to economic development and the attainment of a growth average rate of at least five to seven per cent, which is required to boost productivity and sustainable growth for businesses. Yet the government typically borrows to fund recurrent expenditure, spending money that the country has not earned. 'As we have said time and again, the government needs to improve the economic conditions that would make it possible for Nigerians to establish businesses and for the country to attract foreign investors who would also set up enterprises offering massive employment.

conditions that would make it possible for Nigerians to establish businesses and for the country to attract foreign investors who would also set up enterprises offering massive employment. In this regard, we insist on our recommendation that the fundamental shortages in infrastructure within the economy, especially the problem of power, need to be addressed, while the environment for doing business should be made less tedious. Taking into consideration the continuing increase in the unemployment rate, the government is duty-bound to improve the real and productive sectors of the economy which are the engines of employment for the teeming population of Nigerians out of productive engagement. Needless to say, it must reduce its lavish spending and overall governance costs. No two ways about it'.

In the area of governance in the last couple of years it appeared on the surface that the Nigerian state under the present administration have become incapable of providing the basic functions of government, such as law enforcement and justice, military defense, education, and a stable economy. The Nigerian State seemed to have lost the trust of the people and tend to suffer from civil violence, crime, internal corruption,

poverty, illiteracy, and crumbling infrastructure. Some of the factors that is presently plaguing the country include insurgency, high crime rates, overly bureaucratic processes, corruption, judicial incompetence, etc.

The political class has not fared any better as both the leadership of the Executive and legislature are performing largely below the expectations of Nigerians. The present 9th Legislature has long detached herself from the moral burden of effectively representing the yearnings and aspirations of the electorates who voted for them while making herself a caricature to the Executive. The Nigeria Legislature under the leadership of Rt. Hon. Ahmed Lawan has passed virtually every executive Bill from the President whether it serves the interest of the Nigerian People or not and this to a large extent has reduce the legislature to a mere rubber stamp. Over the years Nigerians have witnessed a legislature that has failed to hold the Executive accountable to the people and this has promoted impunity and lack of respect and regard for the electorates. It is the body language of the current legislature that has encouraged the Executive to embark on borrowing spree that has plunge the nation into the huge debt profile of 42.84 trillion as at today. The lack of such political legislative leadership denies the country the needed impetus and environment needed for meaningful growth and development. This coupled with a political leadership that abhors any form of criticism nor listens to advice and counsel from its citizens is a not a good one as it has taken the nation backwards instead of moving forward. Equally a political leadership that is not sensitive to the cries, hues and feelings of the people while going ahead to implement its programmes and policies has certainly lost its tracks. In the same vein a leadership that responds ferociously to criticism without any iota of remorse or apology and end up speaking from the two sides of its mouth can certainly not be trusted to deliver the goodies to the people. This also applies to a leadership that consistently refuse to take responsibility and delights in shifting blames and pointing accusing fingers at others for her short comings, she can certainly not deliver democratic dividends. A Government that takes delight in attending to the needs and challenges of other sovereign nations at the detriment of her own citizen has certainly lost

direction. An Executive that encourages the use of brutal force to resist harmless peaceful protesters in order to stop them from exercising their fundamental human rights is nothing less than tyrannical.

As we speak today in Nigeria the education system is in shambles. Public Universities have been on strike for the past seven months and a full academic session has been lost. The Government has clearly showed that she lacked the capacity to resolve the lingering crisis with the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU). We have even seen the Federal Government taking the union to court instead of doing the needful. This is not only a manifestation of the Administration's cluelessness but also a proof that the political leadership is not keen about the future of our teeming youth population who are supposed to be in school. The Federal Government has continued to play this cat and mouse game with ASUU and till date nothing tangible has been achieved and many Nigerians believe it is a tactical way the Government is planning to pass the ASUU challenge to the incoming administration just like it did with the issue of fuel subsidy removal that has been surreptitiously been passed to the next administration

Despite limitations in the education sector, Nigeria has more than over 190 universities, the largest university and tertiary education sector in Africa. The country churns out millions of graduate annually, creating the most educated workforce on the continent. This growth represents both a challenge and an opportunity. It will be a challenge and a huge economic burden if productive opportunities are not found for their engagement. Gainfully employed, these educated millions can be harnessed to drive Nigeria's economic growth, thus promoting social stability. But very unfortunately the inability of the Nigerian Government to create employing opportunities to engage even a quarter of the great work force has placed the country in a dilemma as many of them in a bid to eke out a living has resorted to anti -social vices like internet scam, fraudulent schemes and dubious activities that has posed as serious threat to the nation's economy.

In a recent report from the Debt Management Office (DMO) Nigeria's total public debt stock, which was N41.60 trillion

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(100.07 billion dollars) in March rose to N42.84 trillion (103.31 billion dollars) by June. According to a statement obtained from DMO's website the total debt represents the domestic and external debt stocks of the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN), the 36 State Governments and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). It, however, said that while the foreign component of the debt remained at the same level of N16.61 trillion (39.96 billion dollars), the local component increased to N26.23 trillion (63.24 billion dollars). The local component of the country's borrowings was N24,98 trillion (60.1 billion dollars) as of March 30. The DMO said that a larger percentage of the external debts were concessional and semi-concessional loans. "Over 58 per cent of the external debt stock are concessional and semi-concessional loans. "They were obtained from multilateral lenders such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Afrexim and African Development Bank, and bilateral lenders including Germany, China, Japan, India and France. "The total domestic debt stock increased from N24,98 trillion (60.1 billion dollars) in March to N26.23 trillion (63.24 billion dollars) in June. "This is due to new borrowings by the FGN to part-finance the deficit in the 2022 Appropriation (Repeal and Enactment) Act, as well as new borrowings by state governments and the FCT," It said that the total public Debt-to-GDP ratio remained within limits, at 23.06 per cent, while Debt-Service-to-Revenue was still high.

It added that the federal government was committed to increasing revenue so as to reduce the amount that went into debt servicing. "The Debt-to-GDP as at June 30, was 23.06 per cent compared to the ratio of 23.27 as at March 30. It remains within Nigeria's self-imposed limit of 40 per cent. "While the Federal Government continues to implement revenue-generating initiatives in the non-oil sector and block leakages in the oil sector, Debt Service-to-Revenue ratio remains high," it said.

To chart a course of progress, Nigeria needs big dreamers and even bigger dreams, leaders who would do things the unusual way. It is not too late to rescue Nigeria from the brink. Exemplary leadership is imperative at all levels to realize the dreams of the founding fathers who toiled for Nigeria's statehood. Nigeria must

demonstrate its coveted state of independence by beginning a new chapter, and the time to do so is now that Nigerians will be going to the polls in 2023 to choose a new set of leaders. What the nation requires now is a political leadership which has the understanding and capability to set the tone and direction for national growth and development. The leadership that must incorporate all citizens, irrespective of ethnic or geopolitical affiliation in a grand vision of collective dynamic growth. New set of young leaders which proven track of record who are selfless with a patriotic zeal to make the country better. The country doesn't need expired and antiquated and corrupt leaders who have loitered around the corridor for decades and whose stock in trade is to use the peoples resources they have looted to buy their way to power. Nigeria needs a leadership that can harness the diverse potentials of the nation with its massive diversity to accelerate social, political and economic development and put the nation on a path of progress. Nigeria and indeed Nigerians envisage a new chapter that will be heralded by dynamism, productivity, justice, equity and a strong political will that will lead the nation to be among the most developed and respected among the comity of nations. Indeed, Nigeria status as the giant of Africa must be restored. Nigeria must get it right come 2023.

NIGERIA'S FUTURE WILL BE GREAT

... Vice President Osinbajo prays at 62nd Independence anniversary service

Despite its challenges, the future of Nigeria will be far more glorious and peaceful than its past, and the nation's lights will shine bright, with opportunities, equity, justice, and righteousness. Vice President Yemi Osinbajo said this in his 62nd Anniversary message to Nigerians. Professor Osinbajo stated this on Sunday at the 62nd Independence Day anniversary service, which held at the National Christian Centre in Abuja. The Vice President, who brought warm greetings from President Muhammadu Buhari to the congregation, declared that “every year will be happier for you, more glorious, more prosperous and more peaceful, in Jesus' name.” “We stand at the gates of a new nation. And we see its lights shining bright,” he was quoted to have said in a statement by his media aide, Laolu Akande.

“The nation of God's promises. “A nation of opportunities, of equity and justice, a secure and prosperous nation, a nation of laws and righteousness. Even if what we see today seems bleak and dark, we are confident that God who owns the heavens and the earth will fulfil His promises concerning this nation.” I bring you all the warm felicitations of His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, on this occasion of the interdenominational service to mark the 62nd Independence Anniversary of our Republic. In a few days, we will celebrate the 62nd birthday of Nigeria. But Nigeria is not a natural person, it is made up of people, of men, women and children who are Nigerians. So, when we say that celebrate the birthday of Nigeria, we are in fact celebrating the birthday of the Nigerian people wherever they may be in this great and vast nation. So, every prayer and every blessing that we pronounce today on Nigeria, we also pronounce on every Nigerian and all our friends. So, this evening I will pray for Nigeria and the Nigerian people. My favourite prayer for people on their birthday is found in Deuteronomy 33.25(b): “as your days, so shall your strength be.” What does this prayer mean: as your days so shall your strength be? It means the older you become, the stronger you will be in various ways. The first is that you will become physically stronger and healthier as you grow older, in Jesus' name.

The Bible says in Deuteronomy 34:7, it says that Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died. And his eyes were not dim, nor his natural vigour diminished. For the average person, as you grow older you become slower and less fruitful and even barren. But the Word of God to Nigeria today is that it shall not be so with you. Even as you grow in age, you will be more fruitful. You will not be weaker with age. And for every Nigerian, you will be more fruitful as you grow in age, and you will be stronger day by day in Jesus' name. The Word of God says in Psalms 92:13-14: it says: “those who are planted in the

house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing.” That shall be so for you and all you hold dear in the mighty name of the Lord Jesus. Another implication of the blessing: ‘as your days so shall your strength be,’ is that every day, God's promises will be renewed in your life. God said to Abraham in Genesis 12:2-3: “I will make you a great nation; I will bless you; And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. And I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you, all the families of the earth will be blessed.” Let me repeat these blessings for Nigeria, and for you who are here, and every Nigerian because God added in that promise that in Abraham, all the nations of the earth will be blessed. So, you will be a great nation, and God will bless you, and anyone who blesses you will be blessed, those who curse you will be cursed; and through you, this nation and the world will be blessed, in the mighty name of Jesus.



Yet another implication of this blessing: as your days so shall your strength be, is that every day, every month, every year, you will be greater, better, happier, more prosperous, and more joyful than the previous one. And concerning this nation, the Word of God says in Haggai 2:9: “The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts. And in this place, I will give peace’ (in this nation, I will give peace), says the Lord of hosts.” The future of Nigeria will be far more glorious, more peaceful than her past, and so it shall be for you too. Every year will be happier for you, more glorious, more prosperous and more peaceful,

in Jesus' name, “As your days so shall your strength be.” Another implication of this blessing is that your strength physically, mentally and spiritually and even financially will be sufficient and adequate for every new season, every new situation and every new challenge. You will have more than you need for every new season in your life in Jesus' name. Brethren, we stand at the gates of a new nation, and we see its lights shining bright. The nation of God's promises; a nation of opportunities, of equity and justice, a secure and prosperous nation, a nation of laws and righteousness. Even if what we see today seems bleak, and dark, we are confident that God who owns the heavens and the earth will fulfil His promises concerning this nation. Indeed, He says in Joshua 21:45: “not a word failed, of any good thing which the Lord had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.” And we pronounce concerning this nation, that not a word will fail regarding any good thing which the Lord had spoken to Nigeria. All will come to pass in Jesus' name. Finally, to every citizen of this nation, and every family that is represented here, we declare that in the name of Jesus, your best days are yet to come. Every promise that God has made to you will come to pass in Jesus' mighty name. Happy 62nd anniversary!

Nigeria@62 and still crawling among the Comity of Nations

– By *Abbati Bako, psc, bsis, UK*

In his address to the nation on Nigeria's Independence day on 1/10/2017 President Muhammad Buhari said that "Nigeria's number one enemy is corruption". It's indeed a bitter fact that if corruption is not properly tackle to be in peace in Nigeria will be a mirage. Corruption in a country is the root cause of any underdevelopment in any emerging nations. Here are two perspectives (angles) that one can look at global or national economy. First, market economy and second political economy. I have no knowledge or idea I am not an accountant, a banker or financial expert on market economy. But I am a student of political economy. Therefore, this writing will look at the angle of political economy and my argument will be based on political economy only. Experts asserts that 90% of global economy depend largely on "trade and services". Second, no nation can have viable economy without Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Professor Taha mentan (2007) observed that "The United States of America, The European Union, and Japan, have been the main FDI sources and destination over time (but in recent years China is greatly superceding other Nations of the world in which their investment in Africa reached about \$300B). African continent has been receiving the lowest share of global FDI inflows over time. According to Bjorvarn (2000: 1), the whole of Africa receives less FDI than Singapore".

One can imagine: how can 54 African nations (Africa has 17% of global population) could have viable economy with more than 1.4 billion populations in comparison with Singapore that have less than 10m population? And imagine how can Nigeria be one of the largest economy in the world with less inflows of FDI? To ask more questions again, why is Nigeria not among the 20 or 30 largest economies or among the BRICKS nations? Professor Robert Gilpin (an expert on global political economy) says that "African Sub-Saharan Nations account to less than 1% to world economy". How can Nigeria be among the 26 global economy? What mostly attract investors in to a country for huge investments are peace, economic/political/security and stability, rules regarding entry and operation of FDI, stable policies on finances and market stability and privatization policy and so on. These are what use to attract investors in a country. Are we at peace in Nigeria? Is there any constant and reliable electrical energy for industrial operations? Are there reliable road networks? What of water supplies? What of adequate security? How can we be convinced that Nigeria is among the largest economies in the world or within economic emerging nations?

Nigeria depends on oil revenues (90%) and it's a known fact that no nation on earth planet that depends on oil revenues and be seen or considered among the largest economies; even Saudi Arabia. USA is the number one largest economy in the world because 26% of global economic activities (GDP) take place there (George Friedman, 2009). What boost nation's economies are mostly industrial productions, imports and exports and consistent economic policy by the nation's leaders. China is the second largest global economy after USA. And they rely on industrial productions, imports and exports of trade and services and they have a low unemployment rate. How much resources do we have (Nigeria) backed by gold at the World Bank that makes Nigeria the number one economy in Africa and 26th in the world? The United Nations Human Development Index 2018 placed Nigeria at the position of 147 poorest nations.

At age 62 Nigeria is still not amongst the industrial nations. Rather, among the top 100 under developed nations. This has been as a result of lack of patriotic, competent, prudent, meritorious and committed leadership right from the foundation level in 1914. If we are to consider other nations from the southern part of the world; Japan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea and so on, are all far ahead of Nigeria in terms of stable political, economic and social standard. We are still crawling among the comity of nations. We should not allow

ourselves be deceived by political rhetoric from western financial institutions. If Nigeria is economically strong; why must be borrowing Billions of Dollars to fight insurgency and other infrastructure? Why do the unemployment rates reach up to 73%? Why is Nigeria's economy 90% dependent on oil revenues for foreign earnings? Japan is the third largest global economy and they have about 50 refineries, but they don't have oil in any part of their country. If Nigeria must have a viable economy; there must be the need for good, consistent and stable democratic governance, resolve of all internal conflicts, good roads (including rails and ports close to the landlocked area of Northern Nigeria), network/big markets and provision of qualitative education to our teaming population. The strikes of the University's lecturers is a plus to NIGERIA's underdevelopment. Hence, Federal Government and University lecturers must find lasting solution to their standoff for the past 7 months that 5m students are not attending classes. The idea of restructuring of Nigeria is a mirage and pipe dream—The world is now "global village" (McLuhan) and the world is moving toward nations without boundaries in the near future.

European Union is an excellent example having 24.9% of global GDP with 500.1m population or 5% of global population (with due respect to BREXIT of British). British created boundaries and nations 500 years ago. And today the technology is making the world integrated politically, economically (democratically) and socially. So, we shall never allow anybody to create way that will break up Nigeria. Nigeria has come to stay forever. Nigeria must remain united. President Buhari must create strategic plan that will ensure Nigeria remain united so long as this planet exist. If our leaders are now out of strategic thinking/planning and short of ideas and focus they must pave way and groom the younger ones to takeover Nigeria ASAP. Nigeria has been listed among the developed nation in Africa before the end of this century. Therefore, we shall continue as a united nation (Nigeria). We must stand and protect Nigeria forever. The problems with some of our leaders (today) is lack of digital knowledge and focusing the exact location the world moving; economically, socially and politically. The examples given by Professor Ango Abdullahi sometimes a go is different from Nigeria's scenario. Because the emergence of India, Pakistan and so on were all prior to the current globalization policy or call global order adopted by Nigeria and other nations of the world. Also the Northern Ireland and Scotland as well as the IRA in Spain are all before the emergence of globalization in the early 1990s. Even the breakup of Soviet Union was the prior of globalization era. The globalization policy is uniting the world economically, politically and socially; I doubt if the foreign/external economic and political stakeholders (those who do business with Nigeria) of Nigeria will support the breakup of Nigerian nation. Nigeria is a huge market with 2 and 1/2% of global population. And again, the issue of breaking Nigeria is a matter of political elites not among the common people. The world is now a global village due to economic integration, democratization and multi-culturalism. And all nations of the world are interested in Nigeria because of the strategic position of Nigerian nation between the northern and southern part of the world. Nigeria is economically huge market and very attractive to capitalists' market economy.

Conclusively, this writing is confidence that the world and our leaders will not allow Nigeria to break up because the west African sub-region will experience the influx of refugees the world has ever seen. I opined that Ango Abdullahi Is wrong and Nigeria will stand still as a united nation. In reference; see the book written by Professor George Friedman titled "The Next 100 Years, USA, 2009. If Nigeria beak up nobody will benefit; ask the Libyans, Egyptians, Syrians and other Arab spring nations. May God save Nigeria and Nigerians.

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