



Review Paper

Withering away of the state: Nigeria a failing or failed state?

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to evaluate the happenings in Nigeria in redressing the failed state status with a focus on the present administration since the turn of this century. For years now, Nigeria has featured consistently in the list of one of the failed states. The paper looked at the indices of failed states and how these applied to Nigeria as a State. The paper also looked at the insecurity, poverty, youth unemployment, corruption among the highs and lows in the society and basic infrastructures that are denied the citizenry. Also, the issue of leadership was also looked at to arrive at whether Nigeria has withered or withering – failed or failing as a state. Conclusions were made as well as suggestions on the best way to save this sinking ship, called Nigeria.

Keywords: Wither, State, Failed State, Collapsed State, Weak State, Corruption, Leadership, Poverty.

Introduction

It is well known that the phrase “the withering away of the state” originated with Friedrich Engels. What actually is the meaning of this phrase, “withering away of the state”? It is clear that the concept, withering away of the state originated by Marxism but coined by Friedrich Engels. It refers to the idea that the ideal of socialism, the social institution of a state will eventually become disused, neglected and disappear when the society will take care of itself without the coercive power of the law of the state.

In the real sense of it, withering has something to do gardening and horticulture. The withering of a plant means that the plant is tending towards drying up or cause complete destruction. When such a plant or tree suffers from this, nothing is left of it except to wither. The question now arises, is Nigeria as a state withering, failing, collapsing, or careering off course? Our leaders have not been doing well and many things are not right and the entity we call Nigeria is tending towards withering away or has it withered already. This is what this paper is going to find out.

The danger signals of Nigeria being labeled as a failed state started when the then military Head of State said that the problem of the country was not money but rather how to spend it. The funny aspect of this was that there was not infrastructural development during the time in question. A nation fails when the leaders lack vision, mission, plan and focus or direction for their nation but only what they can grab for themselves and their families and friends. What then is a failed state? A state has failed according to Max Weber when there are the insurgency and militant groups, and the very existence of the state becomes questionable and the state becomes a failed state". In addition,

"a failed state is not able to enforce its laws uniformly because of high crime rate, of political corruption, an extensive informal market, impenetrable bureaucracy, judicial ineffectiveness, military interference in politics, cultural situations in which traditional leaders wield more power than the state over a certain area but do not compete with the state, or a number of other factors"¹.

Where the state cannot meet the above-stated responsibilities in the light of this, then a state would be said to have failed. Robert Rotberg posited that states start to fail when they cannot control their own territories when their Gross Domestic Product and the United Nations Human Development Standard of living index falls precipitously when corruption turns into full-scale civil war².

These states are seen as those that are immersed in or at a risk of conflict and instability; where the persistence of violence causes state structures to become ineffectual. Wyler posits that, “countries can also be hampered by poor governance, corruption, and inadequate provisions of fundamental public services to its citizens; may lack effective control of their territory, military, or law enforcement – providing space where instability can foster (for instance the Pakistan-Afghanistan border); and are usually also among the poorest countries in the world, including Bangladesh, Somalia and many in Sub-Saharan Africa”³.

Nigeria is the number one corrupt nation today. The mere typing of Nigeria in any search engine shows that country is well known as a corrupt nation. A country where 20 billion dollars can vanish into thin air and no one will raise an eyebrow. A country where armed robbery, kidnapping and bombing are the orders of the day and nothing much is done to stop the activities

of these hoodlums. Among the 60 countries evaluated in the 2016 Best Countries ranking, Nigeria, the most populated country in Africa, is perceived to be the most corrupt. The rankings were based on a survey of more than 16,000 people from four regions. If such country has not failed, then perhaps I need to go back to my dictionary and check the meaning of failure.

Our problems are quite numerous, is it corruption, poverty, electoral violence, religious crisis, militancy and kidnapping, armed robbery, not regular electric power, hunger, unemployment, low standard of education, insecurity in the country, ineffective Police and now incessant bombing by Boko Haram. What do you think a country that has lost it all will be like? Nigeria since independence has never operated as a nation, but still at ethnic level. What we actually got from our colonial masters was flag independence. I do not think that we are matured enough to rule ourselves. Take a look at what is going on in the Niger Delta and ill-hasty Amnesty programme that was given to the militants and you will understand that our leadership is bereft of ideas. Today the fear of Boko Haram is the beginning of wisdom and the security operatives in the country are not helping matters. The issues raised in this write-up are serious problems that must be addressed if Nigeria must escape from been tagged a failing or failed State. It is, therefore, the focus of this research to identify those indices that portray Nigeria as a failing or failed State with the hope of finding a solution to save this sinking ship called Nigeria.

Indicators of a failing State

Looking at the indicators of failed state, can we say then that the entity called Nigeria is a failed State? Judging from the indicators provided for failed states, Nigeria failed in almost all of them if not all. It is therefore not out of place to categorise Nigeria as a failed state⁴. Here we look at social, economic and political indicators and see if Nigeria has actually failed, collapsed or withered. It is a known fact that Nigerian are looking for all the possible means to leave the country for Europe because of nothing is seen to be working in the country. There is a high level of unemployment among youths; brain drain and forced immigration of both skilled and unskilled labour are also on the increase. People especially the young ones are leaving the country in search of greener pasture. Most of these people leaving the country for foreign countries in search of green pastures are university lecturers, bankers, engineers, doctors, nurses, sportsmen and women and many others⁵. It is therefore very alarming the rate at which skilled and unskilled labours are leaving the shore of this country. Do you blame these universities' lecturers for leaving the country in search of the 'golden fleece'? For years, universities workers have been battling with the federal government over their welfare package, decent remuneration and proper infrastructures, but to no avail. In Germany, teachers have the highest salary in that country, and when judges, doctors and engineers asked the chancellor of Germany, Angela Merkel for

the same salary, she told them, "how can I compare you to those who taught you". Here in Nigeria, teachers receive the least salary and nobody is doing or saying anything about it.

Economic index of a failed state includes economic and social inequalities, and we all know that there is a decline of this in Nigeria. It is a known fact that about 87% of Nigeria's budgetary allocation is distributed among only 5% of its elite population whereas only about 13% is shared by the majority 95 % her citizenry. There is a wide economic and social inequality gap between the haves and the have not. Mrs. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, a one-time Minister of Finance, once told Nigerians after the fuel subsidy removal in 2011 that Nigeria's economy is on the verge of a breakdown, but only to tell the nation a couple of months afterwards that the economy was strong and resonant.

It can be seen that the economic growth indices like power supply, employment opportunity, infrastructure, are on the decline and nobody is doing anything positive to correct the imbalance. Since December 2012 to October 2013, Nigeria's power generation for example reduced from 4,517.6 Megawatts 3,781.8 Megawatts. This goes to show that only 3781.8 Megawatts of electricity is available to the over 170 million Nigerians. However, South Africa with a population of about 50 million generates over 40,000 Megawatts, which is more than ten times what Nigeria generates for her teeming population⁵. Everybody is generating his/her power via generating sets and the whole country is polluted with the fume in Nigeria. Dr. Kabir Umar, one-time Director-General of Centre for Management Development said that about 60 million Nigerians spend N1.6 trillion annually on buying power generator sets and this is very bad for a country like Nigeria with all her resources⁵.

Nigeria has been consistently featured on the list of the worlds failed or failing states. A country like Nigeria with all her natural and human resources should have no business being ranked with war-torn Somalia that is ranked first as well as with DR Congo, the Sudan, Chad and Afghanistan. It is not surprising that Nigeria performed poorly on all the indices used by the FFP: mounting demographic pressure, movement of refugees or internally displaced persons (IDPs), vengeance-seeking group grievance, brain drain, uneven economic development, poverty or severe economic decline, violation of human rights, security apparatus, rise of factionalized elites and intervention of external actors⁶.

The citizens of this entity called Nigeria, provide water for themselves through bore-holes, provide roads and other social amenities because the government whose duties to provide these has failed to do so. This is a country where all sorts of heinous crimes happen on daily basis. Just last week, 3rd week of March 2017, a courier with online company Jumia was murdered, tied and thrown into a septic tank in Port Harcourt when he went to deliver a motorbike and 2 iPhones. Three youths are helping the Police to unravel the mystery behind that dastardly act. The

level of youth unemployment is soaring higher and higher with no hope in sight. These youths are now involved in sorts of crimes you can think of. The level of poverty, hunger, malnutrition and kwashiorkor among the children the of Nigeria is quite alarming.

The poverty situation in Nigeria is as alarming as it is scandalous. A couple of years ago, we were crying that the level of poverty was astronomical. Today the level of poverty and suffering is indescribable, to say the least. Nigeria spews out about 2 million barrels of crude oil per day. Its crude oil reserves stand at 2.4 billion tonnes or about 17.9 billion barrels, which amounts to 1.8 percent of the world's total reserves amount to 3.4 trillion cubic meters which are 24 percent of the entire gas reserves in the world. In her "forward" to the Human Development Report: Nigeria 1998, the then UNDP Resident Representative, MsSarwar Sultana posit that; "poverty in Nigeria is on the increase despite the country's sixth position as an oil exporter in the world. As analysed in the report, causes and effects of poverty in Nigeria are wide, diverse and complex"⁷.

It was suggested that restoration of democracy in Nigeria would generate renewed energy to battle against poverty. The question now is; have Nigerians fared better since May 29th, 1999 with the military back to the barracks? The answer, of course, is no. The incidence of poverty has even increased more than ever before. The Buhari's government has even worsened the situation. Prices of things have risen astronomically and suffering of Nigerians have increased.

The level of poverty according to the Nigeria the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) is very staggering, to say the least. At the figure of 112.519 million, Nigerians live in relative poverty conditions. The above figure represents about 69 percent of total population that is estimated to be 163 million. However, the poverty rate is rising a time the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate is put at 7.75 percent. The report, which provides details of poverty and income distribution across the country, put the 2004 poverty measurement rate at 54.4 per cent. It also shows that income inequality had risen from 0.429 in 2004 to 0.447 in 2010. NBS adds that it remains a paradox that despite the fact that the Nigerian economy is growing, the proportion of Nigerians living in poverty is increasing every year. According to World Bank estimates, more than 100 million people – just over 60 percent of Nigeria's population – now live on less than \$1 per day.

Poverty in Nigeria can also be caused by the political instability of the country. However, these programs have largely failed to overcome the three reasons for this persistent poverty: income inequality, ethnic conflict, and political instability. The country has abundant human and natural resources but still, struggles with mass impoverishment. Agriculture, once its primary hard currency earner, has collapsed, and food imports now account for a sixth of the trade bill⁸. Nigeria has the third largest number

of the poor in the world after China and India⁸. Nigeria is one of the world producers of crude oil and gas but has done little to alleviate poverty and the suffering of her people. The economy's reliance on oil for export earnings and government revenue has hurt the poor much more than the rich⁹. Poverty is a crisis that is habitual and it conveys a message of hardship difficult to deny. It speaks publicly through visible misery, persisting destitution, endemic hunger and visible malnutrition¹⁰.

Nigerian Leadership and Bad policies

Part of the problem of this great country since independent has been that of leadership. In his text, the trouble with Nigeria, Chinua Achebe posits that the problem of this country is Nigerian land, water, air or climate, rather it is simply the problem of leadership. According to him the political history of the country is partly one of disillusionment with politics and the politicians. It was the legacy of economic mismanagement and a chain of political instability by past leaders that left the nation in this state of comatose. Our leaders do not seem to be responsible and responsive to the needs of the citizenry. They come without any economic blueprint but zeroed their minds on billions of Dollars, Pounds, Euro and Naira to stuff in their accounts and nothing more¹¹.

The leadership is at its worst. Criminality and dubious wealth have combined to throw up men and women who are demonstrably unfit for public office. Unlike the founding fathers, Nigerian politicians, in and out of government, are birds of a feather. Most political parties are known for their unseeingly scramble for power – which is a sure means of amassing illegitimate wealth – rather than good governance. Political parties are bereft of identifiable ideologies and crisscross all the main political parties in a short period of time and still return safely to the base¹².

Nigeria enjoyed oil booms all these years without having anything to show for it; no infrastructure, no human development, high level of unemployment, no good healthcare, and the education sector is in a quagmire. Rather than developing the economy, these leaders busied themselves in corruption and looting of public funds. They introduced the politics of recycled succession where the first elected persons in this so-called democracy have positioned themselves and recycled themselves around their political interests. That philosophy has made it grim for anybody, particularly young people, to rise from outside and become anything significant in our political space without acquiescing to the role of godfathers¹³.

With good and effective leadership, and the minimization of corruption to the barest minimum as well as good governance, the Nigerian state with her human and material resources will be able to perform the functions of a normal state. In this context, we are to provide basic such as shelter/housing, healthcare,

security, food, peace, jobs/employment, qualitative education for all, as well as public transportation¹⁴.

Everybody has been eulogising the late Nelson Madiba Mandela of South Africa, how many of 'leaders' are trying to imitate him. The whole world mourned the great Mandela and people said a lot of good things about his life. The question now is who among our leaders can be eulogised like the great Madiba – none of them. Here in Nigeria, we do not have leaders, but rulers who lord it over the masses and steal as much as they can to build universities, refineries and empires across Africa. How many mansions had Mandela in South Africa before his demise? Mandela refused vehemently to come for the second term, but in Nigeria what do we have? In Mandela's funeral service Nigeria was blacked out and we felt bad. Come to think of it, what made us think that our country is something? Is the Nigerian nation about to prove Campbell, right? Is the state about to disintegrate or has it disintegrated already? If the current trend continues, how long can the state last? Many have argued that it is wrong to say that Nigeria has failed, but they are quick to admit that it is failing. Almost all agreed that the quality of leadership has progressively declined over the years and that the current set is the worst we have had in the past 57 years¹⁵. Nigerians now depend on God for virtually everything because the government, both Federal, State and Local government have all failed to deliver the dividend of democracy to the people. Today the quickest way to make money apart from being in politics is opening a Church and deceive the people in parting with the little money they have and give to the fake pastors that are bound in Nigeria. These pastors cow people into sowing seeds and donating handsomely for God to intervene in their lives. This happens because the government at all levels have failed very woefully.

Withered and Failed States

Withered, failed or collapsed states are usually tense, deeply conflicted, and contested bitterly by warring factions. In most failed state like Nigeria, the federal troops battle armed revolts led by one or more rivals. Occasionally, the official authorities in such a failed state spend most of their time-fighting insurgencies as well as other civil unrest, different degrees of communal crisis, and a plethora of dissent directed at the state and at groups within the state². Nigeria has been at war with Boko Haram and thousands of innocent citizens have been bombed and killed over the years.

The growing incidence of terrorism which has rocked the country to its foundation has not helped the precarious situation. It is quite obvious that life in the northern part of the country has been made hellish for the people with government in total confusion as to how to handle the situation. With hundreds of deaths recorded at regular intervals, the government has been struggling to reject attempt in certain quarters to tag it a terrorist state¹⁶.

Today, it is not only Boko Haram in the North East or Militancy blowing oil pipelines in the Niger Delta; there are Fulani herdsmen that have been causing havoc here and there in the country and the government is keeping quiet and somehow subdued over the happenings in the country. As it is today, this country is sliding into a state of anarchy. A situation where Fulani herdsmen armed themselves with AK47 rifles and killing and maiming people in villages in the Southeast, south-west and some northern States is not acceptable and must be stopped.

The civil wars that characterize failed states usually stem from or have roots in ethnic, religious, linguistic, or another intercommunal entity. There is no failed state without disharmonies between communities. Nigeria is as disunited as ever as never before. In fact, Nigeria can be referred as a Country still in search of Nationhood. Another index of a failed state is the increase rate of criminal activities and violence. As state authority weakens and fails, and as the state becomes criminal in its oppression of its citizens, so lawlessness becomes the order of the day. Criminal gangs, cult groups, take over the streets of the cities and safety of lives becomes a problem.

One of the major challenges faced by Nigeria and other developing nations of Africa is bad leadership and corruption. Nigeria will continue to be ranked in a group of failed or failing states until the issue of corruption and good leadership is addressed. Corruption and bad leadership have been the bane of economic development in Africa. Good governance has eluded this great country because the same politicians that have been in power over the decades are still there with no fresh ideas – they kept recycling themselves year in year out. With corruption and bad governance, it becomes a herculean task to move this country forward. What is central to Africa's underdeveloped status are corruption and leadership deficit and until these are addressed, African countries will remain underdeveloped for years to come¹⁴.

Political corruption is synonymous with Nigeria or calls it Nigeria's second name. President Muhammadu Buhari defined corruption as the greatest form of human right violation. Since Nigeria became a sovereign nation, the issue of official misuse of funds and resources have been in the forefront. The discovery of oil and natural gas in commercial quantities led to the increase in corrupt practices and looting in this great country. These natural resources instead of being a blessing to the country is now a curse. Nigeria is the 136 least corrupt nation out of 175 countries, according to the 2016 Corruption Perceptions Index reported by Transparency International. Corruption Rank in Nigeria averaged 119.14 from 1996 until 2016, reaching an all-time high of 152 in 2005 and a record low of 52 in 1997.

The jumbo pay of Nigerian lawmakers has also been on the front burner in recent times. The Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Mr Lamido Sanusi, the immediate past governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) once said, that

the jumbo pay of Nigerian lawmakers contributes to our economic backwardness. He posited that 25% of the Federal Government budget “overhead” was spent on the National Assembly yearly. According to him, the figure used as total Federal Government overhead is N536billion, out of which N136billion was used in servicing the National Assembly. Imagine a politician importing a vehicle worth N300m, what on earth should he import that type of car in this period of recession when a majority of Nigerians are dying of hunger and workers are not paid their salaries. This present National Assembly is the worst we have had in decades. It is high time we do away with anybody that defrauds this country irrespective of who the status of such a person.

In the same vein, Professor ItseSagay (SAN) drew attention to the abnormality in August when he delivered a lecture on “Legislating for Common Good: Contemporary Issues and Perspectives” during the celebration of the 47th birthday of the Lagos State Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr Opeyemi Bamidele. He said in spite of Nigeria’s position as one of the world’s poorest nations, with a meagre per capita income of \$2,249 per annum as against \$46,350 of the US, the nation’s federal lawmakers were the highest paid in the world, with each earning more than President Barack Obama of the US¹⁷.

Significantly, public graft has crippled the nation’s development in all spheres. According to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), about \$400 billion of the nation’s wealth has been stolen since 1960 by successive leaders who saw their various political and civil service position as opportunities to steal. Another N34 trillion earned from 1999 – 2009 can hardly be accounted for. Since politicians are still stealing, the graft culture continues to fester¹².

Nigeria is bleeding economically and those saddled with the duty of healing the wounds are the culprits. A situation where a doctor that is meant to carry out surgery on a patient is aggravating his wound means that the situation is beyond redemption. That is the current state of the Nigerian nation. The impact of corruption on our socio-economic and political life has been very negative. A very significant portion of appropriated money ends up in private pockets. Rampant corruption is evidenced in innumerable abandoned projects that the promoters never wanted to completely execute from the beginning. Nigerian leaders have deliberately refused to establish comparable medical centres of excellence in Nigeria for the care of the majority.

Can Nigeria ever get it right in her quest to move forward? For now, it is very difficult to say judging from the way things are going. Both the leaders and the lead are not in the right direction at all. This is a country that cannot organise any election without rigging such. There is a high level of impunity in the country, the legal system and the law enforcement agencies are highly corrupt. Our Police are in disarray and into serious confusion. There is a proliferation of arms here and there and nothing much

is being done to curtail it. Police harass, intimidate innocent people and even shoot and kill with least provocation and nothing happens to the officer involved. This place called Nigeria is nothing but a jungle. There are cultist groups everywhere especially in Rivers State and the government comes to offer Amnesty to so-called repentant cultists. What happens to other youths who are in dire need of empowerment and are dying silently. Do they need to join the cult group or carry arms against the State before they will be given Amnesty? Cultism is becoming the in-thing in a place like Rivers State among youths. The question on everybody’s lip is; will the country survive this failed status? We can only wait and see what happens next.

Conclusion

From all indications, the leadership of this nation has failed woefully and the masses are worst for it. The current leadership of this nation, President Buhari is not trying much as a leader to steer this great ship known as Nigeria to safety coupled with the economic recession. The country is seriously careering off course and if nothing is done fast this nation will be swept under the footnote of history. The security challenges, corruption, hunger, unemployment among the youth and poverty are seriously threatening the existence of this nation. The President should rise above talking and start doing something positive to put back this nation back on course or Nigeria will disintegrate before our eyes.

President Buhari thought he can fight the corruption in this country, but I believe that it is bigger than what he thought. For now, nobody can do that because it has eaten far deep into us. No sector is safe from corrupt practices, not even the Churches. This country is bleeding corruption and the leadership does not have any direction. It is the Leadership in this country that can unlock some of the challenges confronting this entity called Nigeria.

Nobody can understand why Nigeria has remained a national and global embarrassment with its huge national endowments (human and natural). Why is it that the sixth or eight largest exporters of crude petroleum, with huge petrodollars, remains one of the 10 poorest nations, with some of the worst statistics in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Human Living Index (HLI)? Why is that the more petroleum dollars Nigeria earns, the worse the economic misery, deprivation and poverty of the people remain?¹⁸. The question is; is crude oil a curse to Nigeria? With our numerous resources, we should not be at the stage of development that we are now.

It is quite a pity that many Nigerians are living below poverty line in an oil-rich country. The paradox is that while a privileged few Nigerians are living in opulence; the majority of our citizenry is wallowing in abject poverty. Things are getting worse by the day and the elite are busy stealing money on daily basis. The sinking ship must be saved now and not tomorrow. Looking at

the above-mentioned indices, Nigeria has failed or hanging precariously on the edge of collapsing.

The current state of insecurity is becoming alarming and nobody knows what will become of the country in the next few years. A few days ago, the Northern youths issued a warning to Igbos of South-East to leave the north by October 1st, 2017, and the Igbos have told their people living in the North not to go anywhere but to arm and ready to defend themselves. It is the time the security operatives in the country up their game towards checking the threat of insecurity and ensure the protection of lives and properties in this country. Nigeria as a nation will disintegrate; fall, kaput if nothing is done to steady this sinking ship now, for tomorrow will be too late. In the same vein, Chekwes Okorie in his reaction over the quit notice given to the Igbos in the North by Arewa youths advised the Igbos to remain but be vigilant. He also lamented that Nigeria will collapse and those in government today will bear the blame of the blood of the innocent ones that will perish from the collapse. Chief Okorie also blamed the National Assembly for not doing the needful to save this sinking Ship called Nigeria from collapsing.

Today, the easiest means of making money in Nigeria apart from the primitive looting going on among our elites via owning a Church or school. There are lots of fake pastors today afflicting on the confused masses. It is only in Nigeria that anybody can open a school without proper investigation by the Ministry of Education, and they charge parents any amount they want and nobody does anything about it.

The truth is, no one is effectively solving Nigeria's problem and there is no solution in sight for now. After all, Nigerians themselves are beginning to believe the prophets of doom, pundits of nihilism and witches of fate that Nigeria will cease to exist as an entity soonest. What a dark and gloomy moment for Nigeria! Are we going to come out of this? Why is it that there is poverty in the land? Why is there youth restiveness and why is that there is no longer qualitative education in the country? Are public services still functioning? Where? Like other citizens, I now generate my own power, provide potable water for my family, contribute money for the road around my house to be maintained and pay for security every month. For this country to avoid going down like a sinking ship, certain things need to be set aright.

Suggestions: This entity called Nigeria needs a total reshuffle in order to survive the impending doom or collapse that is staring us in the face. It is not only the leaders that need to be purged of greed, each and every one of us needs to change his/her ways of thinking and doing things properly. There is urgent need to restructure our value system, morals are lacking in our children, there is violence everywhere as well as youth unemployment.

Firstly, corrupt leaders must be punished seriously so that others will not like to commit the same crime. Remuneration of political class must be re-visited, it must be brought down.

Political offices should be a permanent job but a part-time one. Seating allowance should only be paid to them and not this jumbo salaries and allowances. It is this jumbo pay package that is the root of all the electoral malpractices and violence in the country.

Secondly, remuneration of all teachers, primary, secondary and tertiary levels must be increased as well as civil servants so that they can do their jobs better. Adequate infrastructure should be provided to our universities. Public schools should be brought back to its original form so that our children will go back there and not just private schools which most parents can afford their fees.

Thirdly, our health care centres should be improved upon and equipped so that they will take care of both the highs and lows of the society. Our leaders should be checkmated in going to overseas for any ailment.

Finally, the oil sector must be monitored properly because the level of corruption there is alarming and that is what has killed the economy. I also support what Anazodo, Igbokwe and Nkahi suggested on the punishment to be meted on the country's enemies of progress. They advocated; for confiscation of the properties of corrupt leaders, jail sentences without fine option for offenders of corrupt practices and bad governance; death penalty for embezzlement and siphoning off of state money abroad; cancellation of election results obtained based on rigging and fraudulent acts; disqualification of public officers implicated in election and allied mal-practices; and public disgrace and life jail for corrupt businessmen and women feeding fat on public fund. If these and other measures are not carried out religiously, this entity called Nigeria will fail very soon. The impunity is far too much¹⁴.

Every day we hear of corrupt elites and the amount of money they embezzled and nobody have been brought to book. Until we start giving out the capital punishment on these people, Nigeria will continue to go down. Corrupt leaders must be given capital punishment so that it will deter others from embezzling public fund. Until these are done, our suffering and corruption will continue and Nigeria will surely disintegrate, fail, collapse and kaput.

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