

# LEADERSHIP EFFECTIVENESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY DIALOGUE (LEAD)

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**LEADERSHIP EFFECTIVENESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY DIALOGUE (LEAD)**  
**2ND EDITION ANNUAL OUTCOME**



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We also wish to thank all the NGOs that coordinated the regional consultative forum on national unity and cohesion in the six geopolitical zones represented here.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The proceeding events and the aftermath of the 2023 general elections in Nigeria have **raised concerns about the state of Nigeria's unity and cohesion, which has informed the** opinion of some stakeholders' calling on the President to compose a Government of National Unity (GNU). The argument is that such a strategy could calm ragged nerves and create some measure of unity between winners and losers of elections.

Nigeria had, in the 1970s, worked persistently towards national unity by formulating strategic policies such as the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) programme. Until recently, the NYSC served as a tool for national unity and integration. But like many Nigerian policies, most of the ideas of its founders have been greatly diluted. The federal character principle, on its part, has been politicised and poorly managed.

Undoubtedly, Nigeria is not the only multi-ethnic nation in the world, but ethnic differences have been visible in the recent past and threatened its drive for national unity. Like other nations, Nigeria needs to creatively manage its differences to strengthen its unity and thereby make remarkable impacts on the global stage.

Clearly, the future of this country lies squarely in uniting the people. Unity will bring citizens together to create a shared vision and promote peaceful co-existence. Peace will engender greater national productivity and economic progress. The need for Nigeria to take its rightful place in the comity of nations informed the fulcrum of intervention of the Leadership Effectiveness and Accountability Dialogue (LEAD) project.



## INTRODUCTION

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As part of efforts to deepen the nexus between Diplomacy, Democracy and Development and in line with the **Leadership Effectiveness and Accountability Dialogue (LEAD) project** objectives of canvassing the buy-in of all stakeholders on the indivisibility and in-dissolvability yearning of Nigerians for good and accountable governance, Savannah Centre hosted a series of high-level policy dialogues as Nigeria prepared for the 2023 general elections.

The dialogues became necessary because the nation was preparing for a general election amidst the dynamics of challenges across all the regions, including notable incidents like the continuous attacks by Boko Haram Insurgence, IPOB separatists, Abuja-Kaduna train attack, the attack on the Kuje medium prison on the outskirts of Abuja, random kidnappings, bandit attacks, inter-ethnic and inter-religious verbal attacks, amongst others. The resultant effect of the aforementioned became a source of concern to the stakeholders' cluster, who could help amplify the message on the need for national unity and cohesion beyond the 2023 general elections.

Furthermore, the fuel scarcity and the naira redesign policy by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) were issues that adversely affected both the social and economic state of the country prior to the 2023 general elections.

The strategic conversations on the LEAD project included engagement with stakeholders in both private and public sectors who were able to identify unique issues that affect each of the regions and provided workable recommendations that could be used to engage policymakers and other relevant actors who are active players in the nation building project. Savannah Centre acknowledged that the commitment to nation-building is not a one-off activity or event but a continuous effort; thus, these forums were deliberately designed to go on before, during and after the 2023 general elections. The centre believes in the incremental nature of the process of nation-building, which requires conscious and structured concerted efforts from leaders and the citizens.





**NATIONAL  
ONLINE  
FORUM/POLICY  
DISCUSSION  
ON THE STATE  
OF THE NATION**





**FOURTH EDITION OF THE NATIONAL ONLINE FORUM/POLICY DISCUSSION:  
THEME: NIGERIA'S 2023 GENERAL ELECTIONS:  
MOBILISING YOUNG PEOPLE FOR NATIONAL UNITY**



## **NIGERIA'S 2023 GENERAL ELECTIONS: MOBILISING YOUNG PEOPLE FOR NATIONAL UNITY**

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### **Overview**

The 2023 general elections in Nigeria may be adjudged the most exciting since Nigeria's 1999 fourth democratic journey for diverse reasons; it is set against a backdrop of one of the most challenging economic realities in Nigeria, divisive national politics, persistent and rising insecurity and a general sense of dissatisfaction among Nigerians. Different actors have continued to express worry over the place of the youth who constitute the largest demography. The youth demography remains one of the strengths of the nation both politically and economically.

However, there is no doubt that the youth demography, especially "Generation Z" has not been harnessed to promote national unity and cohesion, rather, the youth are perceived to be divided across religious and ethnic lines, which is a threat to the coexistence of the nation prior to and after the 2023 elections.

The Nigerian elites cannot be totally exempted from what the youth has turned out to be, as they have been perceived to have over-placed personal interests above national ethics, values and ultimately national cohesion and unity.

Sadly, general insecurity in the country, rising unemployment, high cost of living and the incessant downing of tools in the education industry had significantly contributed to the displeasure and loss of hope among young Nigerians.

Despite the aforementioned problems, efforts are being put in place to see that Nigeria remains a united and indivisible entity beyond the 2023 elections, through the instrumentality of deliberate youth inclusion in national conversations to address the plight of the youth and to create the fora to constructively ventilate their views on critical national issues that can redirect our path towards national unity and cohesion.



## Highlights

1. The 18 – 35 year group constitutes the youth in Nigeria and also the difference in interests in the different categories among youth and hence the different approaches to mobilising the young towards national unity are sacrosanct.
2. The issues that divide us include religion, ethnicity, inequality etc. But among young people, these issues may be abstract and how does anyone bring the conversation of national unity to young people in the face of all the issues facing them? Among which are employment, poverty, ignorance, illiteracy as well as the increasing level of insecurity in the country.
3. Mobilisation of young people is, therefore, best began from the cradle. As soon as a child is able to comprehend, the ingrained national practices should begin and run through the child's growth and education to guarantee success.
4. Efforts must be made to seek the things that unite us, by extension our common interests, and also identify our challenges with the intent to address them and build national unity.
5. A national programme for building national unity is the best way forward. This programme must target education and educational packages beginning from nursery to tertiary with national unity interpreted and inculcated in the curriculum of all concerned accordingly.
6. Respect, empathy, understanding and accommodation must be at the heart of our efforts. We must learn about each other's religions and ethnic differences in healthy and respectful ways.



7. **All tiers of government, all levels of government and all arms of government must be actively involved in placing national unity at the heart of their activities.**
8. There must be a national commitment to building national unity, a commitment that can be measured and reported on an annual basis. A commitment that must be backed by resources to ensure that all hands are on deck towards the achievement of this objective because national unity is not a thing, it is a process that encompasses all spheres and strata of life.
9. A programme of citizen re-orientation should be placed in the school's curriculum that will help national unity.
10. Importantly, the elites must serve as inspiration to the younger generation to aid intergenerational connection for national unity and cohesion.

### **Challenges**

1. What extracurricular activities can we bring that will help national mobilisation?
2. **How do we learn about each other's cultures and religions in a healthy way that will foster national unity?**
3. How do we ensure respect for one another's religion and culture?
4. How do we ensure healthy debate?
5. How much time do we give ourselves to achieve this national mobilisation? A decade, a generation?
6. How do we bring the proportion of illiterate and semi-illiterate on board, and how do we drive the message of national mobilisation among this category?



1. There should be a deliberate plan to harmonise national orientation in the school curriculum, starting from the primary and secondary levels as well as higher institutions on a well thought out initiative on how to co-exist in a healthy way that encourages unity and respect for diversity. This initiative requires national investment and coordination, working with NGOs, CSOs, religious groups, as well as individuals who have distinguished themselves as icons in society.
2. Nigerians should be patriotic, as patriotism will engineer the spirit of brotherhood among citizens and serve as a bedrock for national unity.
3. Nigerians should reject any form of discrimination to address the issue of ethnic bias. There is a need for attitudinal change which will promote ethnic coexistence.
4. There should be an effort for intergenerational engagement and discussion to close the gap of mistrust as well as information between the different generations; the gap in which the older generations feel the young are too much in a hurry, while the young feel the older generation wasted opportunities and drove the nation in the wrong direction. This will require a commitment on both sides of the divide with clear goals. Knowledge of our common history must be shared and efforts at reconciliation must be deliberate to ensure acknowledgment of wrongs and the seeking of reconciliation.



5.

Public discussion should be used to build national unity. To achieve this, there is a need for short, medium and long-term approaches. For instance, national mobilisation must be a long-term method. In terms of reaching the illiterate, the immunisation process is a good example, of a door-to-door approach. This can be spread around where we make it impossible to avoid the national unity discussion, a deliberate way of making the issue of national unity dominate all conversations. All institutions must place national unity at the heart of their business and pursue it with vigor. National unity must have a multi-stakeholder approach but it must be well resourced and all partners must be involved. Like the Open Government Forum (OGF) in which all parties are equally invested and hold themselves accountable.

6.

Inequality must be addressed with a view to ensuring equity. The information must be curated to ensure the intergenerational gap is managed to mitigate the anger of the younger generation and the shock of the older generation.



## SOCIAL MEDIA: A VITAL TOOL FOR PROMOTING PATRIOTIC CITIZENSHIP AND NATIONAL STABILITY

### Highlights

1. Patriotism is about love for one's country, and citizenship is knowing where one belongs. The question is how do we use the many social media platforms to promote patriotic citizenship and national stability?
2. It is difficult to use social media to promote patriotic citizenship because of inadequate inclusion and the leaders' tendency to use the nation as a base for wealth collection with no investment. Most youths are angry and want to leave the country. Hence, promoting patriotism is difficult.
3. The way a historic event is told affects national unity, for instance, the Nigerian Civil War. The Igbos believe that the civil war was genocide against them, and the rest of the nation gloats. Unlike the case in South Korea, where the story of the Korean War is told to build national unity and solidarity.
4. The response on many social media platforms is clear that young people want nothing to do with Nigeria if they can help it. But we have the National Orientation Agency (NOA) whose responsibility is to take those key values that unite us and promote them, but do we need an agency to champion those values? We, in all our engagement, can better lead the promotion of those values than anyone else can.
5. Messaging must be consistent and encompassing across all forms of media. Individuals or groups that represent these ideals must be identified and given the opportunity to promote the values of national unity.
6. There is deep mistrust between citizens and the government which can only be healed with open, transparent and just governance.



1.

National Orientation Agency (NOA) should do more to lead the promotion of patriotism and national stability. **The NOA is a necessary agency, but if it is not doing enough due to poor funding, CSOs should, therefore, rise to support its work.**

2.

It is necessary to strive to find silver linings and focus on them. We must focus on the things that unite us, and not those that divide us. **For instance, by encouraging inter-marriages between the various ethnic groups.**

3.

Promoting patriotism, citizenship and national stability on social media is a tough sell presently, **as most young people have some doubt about the Nigerian project. The policy actors should be engaging in conversations that will engender national cohesion.**



## GEN Z, CURRENT NIGERIA VS THE DREAM NIGERIA

### Highlights

1. Tomorrow is here, and Gen Z is not the leader that many thought they would be. Gen Z is born with a lot of opportunities, especially since they were born with technology, but how are these energies channelled? What are their interests? Many are social media influencers, but they do not focus on the things that affect their lives and well-being.
2. Gen Z constitutes about 25% of the Nigerian population, a demography that should not be ignored. It is, however, possible to get accountability if people are paying attention. This can promote accountability, but a larger percentage of Gen Z is concentrating its energy in the wrong direction.
3. Many Gen Zs do not feel advantaged. The economic challenges are enormous and things are not working for the majority of the youth. But having realised these challenges, what are they doing to change the situation? This is critical. It is important for Gen Z to realise that it is their responsibility to strive for and drive the change they want to see.
4. Corruption is another issue. The baby boomer generation may be loose, weak and corrupt, but the Gen Z is just as corrupt. The stories are out there, and there is nothing to show that Gen Z is better or more interested in Nigeria. The millennial may have taught Gen Zs corruption, but Gen Z has taken it up itself.
5. The PVC registration may seem like a good sign, but registration cannot translate into votes. This is because a lot still have deep-seated voter apathy. Many in Gen Z claim to be politicians, but they have no job or source of livelihood; thus, they engage in vote trading.



1.

How one chooses to use their time is the key to the result one gets. Poverty is prevalent but with each person taking responsibility, it becomes easier to succeed.

2.

Gen Z needs to be creative and innovative. They should contribute to the economic growth. They need to be intentional about Nigeria and not focus on the things that will drag the country down. They must take responsibility and be responsible. We cannot collect money to vote for candidates we neither know nor trust and expect things to be different.

3.

Motivating others requires self-motivation. If youth must preach, then they must live by the principles they preach. This is the best way to motivate all.

4.

National unity is very important and central to national development and progress; it is a necessary factor that must be attained. The youth do have a responsibility to promote Nigeria, and they must take the driver's seat in achieving the Nigeria of their dreams. They must also support one another.





**FIFTH EDITION OF THE NATIONAL ONLINE FORUM/POLICY DISCUSSION**

**THEME: THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTIONS: THE NATION WE WANT AND THE PRESIDENT WE NEED**



## THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTIONS: THE NATION WE WANT AND THE PRESIDENT WE NEED

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### Overview

Nigerians, for the very first time under the fourth republic, appeared to have found a common ground, in their desire to choose the right President for critically needed fresh air and national resetting in the 2023 general elections. A leader who is not only aware of the problems confronting Nigeria's polity, but also a purposeful and result-oriented leader who understands these problems, and is resolute in solving them for the common good of Nigerians.

Unlike all the previous general elections, the level of awareness and intentional zeal to actively participate in the 2023 general elections vis-à-vis an electoral act debuted by the Electoral Management Body (EMB) have been tipped by many observers as some of the possible game changers in the 2023 general elections.

Also, what looks like an overwhelming interest by critical stakeholders across Nigeria's geopolitical zones continues to exacerbate and pressure the brotherhood, collectiveness and unity of the country, due to the bad security and economic situation in which the country finds itself.

This fifth edition of the conversation focused on the perspectives from different demography of the society as to the president Nigeria needs to be able to confront and resolve the many challenges hindering its progress.



## PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES PERSPECTIVE ON THE NATION WE WANT AND THE PRESIDENT WE NEED

1. **Nigerians need a President who is no stranger to high-level politics at the national and international stages.** 2023 elections should produce far more than a man who is 'good' but one whose goodness translates to doing what is right to mitigate the level of emergency the nation's challenges deserve. It is our project and all of us have to be up and ready to get it right.
2. **Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) often face systemic exclusion and discrimination in Nigeria's political space.** Just like millions of vulnerable people in Nigeria, PWDs want an inclusive government, where their participation will be visible in all electoral processes without hindrance.
3. **Equity and Inclusiveness: This requires that all groups in society, most especially PWDs be given the opportunity to improve and maintain their well-being.** It means giving an open door to all and treating all equally. People with disabilities should enjoy the benefits derivable from an inclusive policy and programmes derived and driven by persons with disability.
4. **Transparency and Accountability in all social and welfare programmes aimed at uplifting the standard of living of the citizens:** This means a leader that will be transparent in all the programmes on social welfare for PWDs without discrimination of age, gender, disability, education status, or location.



## YOUTH PERSPECTIVE ON THE NATION WE WANT AND THE PRESIDENT WE NEED

1. The Nigerian youth want education, a sure way of benefiting from the country to be critically looked into. Over the years, the budget allocation to education, compared to other developing countries such as Ghana, Kenya, or Cameroon, has been discouraging. Thus, the Nigerian youth want a President that will prioritise improvement in the educational sector.
2. Nigerians must search for the very best, without mundane considerations in picking the country's next President, and in the opinion of the Nigerian youth, such a leader must be below 60 years of age.
3. A 21st century visionary leader who can translate plans into reality by making tough decisions is needed. We need a President that understands the potentials inherent in our nation, ranging from crude oil to agriculture; hence, our national resources are underutilised.
4. The President should have the capacity to motivate and inspire personal and corporate actions and build a responsible and responsive team with the requisite capacity to manage priorities and deliver, especially in the areas of security and economy.



5. **A leader with an honourable character who will respond to new trends without antagonism (Twitter ban of 2021 as an example).**
6. **Emotions do not lead to development. Governance must be scientific in the sense that it has to be planned. What are the plans to maximise our developmental potential? It is evident that the current system has not solved our problems. We need to prioritize merit, competence, and character over anything else. Gender, age, tribe, state, and all other factors do not matter in governance.**
7. **Leadership is a continuous process in governance hence; the leader we want should be able to probe the stewardship of past leaders and he must also be willing to account for his actions before leaving the position he occupied.**
8. **Nigerians deserve a nation that has fiercely independent journalism, robust civil society resistance that can call the government to accountability, and public servants with integrity who have the courage to stand up to corruption.**



## NIGERIAN WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE NATION WE WANT AND THE PRESIDENT WE NEED

1. It is widely believed that the marginalisation of women in political participation and decision-making processes has been responsible for the long and continuous exclusion of their interests in governance and development paradigms. Nigerian women will support a candidate whose philosophy aligns with the need of women.
2. Over the years, women have not successfully garnered resources for elections, mentored the right women for these positions, or mobilised support at party, community or national levels. According to a report by Gender Strategy Advancement International (GSAI), women's political participation in Nigeria remains at 6.7% which falls below the global average of 22.5%, African regional average of 23.4%, and the West African sub-regional average of 15%.
3. The dominant explanation for women's political underrepresentation in Nigeria focuses largely on issues that diminish women's political resources and undermine their capacity to engage in politics. These issues include traditional values and norms, community expectations, conservative family upbringing, lack of good education, lack of work or professional experience, structural and physical violence against women, and discriminatory roles assigned to women in political parties.
4. Interpreting the problem of women's political underrepresentation as a question of women's lack of resources implies that measures dealing with the problem must look for ways of increasing women's political resources.



## Challenges

1. The issue of women's inclusion in the Nigerian political process is the challenge of **confidence and low self-esteem, and most importantly, low interest in politics and government**. There are a lot of capable young women, but they are not interested enough.
2. Those in urban areas are good at complaining and lamenting. A lot of them do not even have their Permanent Voter's Cards (PVCs) and do not get involved in politics; rather, they complain about governance.
3. There are a lot of gaps between women and men in the political sphere, especially for those aspiring to be leaders in Nigeria. There seems to be a drought of ideas among our politicians and even citizens on what to prioritise. Religious, gender and ethnic identity have taken the front stage in spite of the current economic and security challenges.
4. The problem of this country is not the drafted papers we tagged as "Constitution"; it is the "people". There are beautiful laws in this country, but the weak institutions of government cycled by saboteurs constantly kill the great expected end of those laws.



1. It is rather better to stick to having strong institutions. The Nigerian project cannot be limited to the age of a leader and gender alone, it also requires the collective re-orientation of all.
2. Nigerians should go for individuals, and not the party. Grassroots mobilisation and education are very important. We need to educate people at the grassroots level as they hold the key to electing the leaders we want.
3. **Leadership Philosophy:** Nigerians should look into the leadership philosophy of all presidential candidates and consider if this philosophy translates into a vision for our nation.
4. **Benchmarks:** There should be benchmarks for measuring the actions of all candidates and these benchmarks must be clear and actionable.
5. **Qualification:** Nigerians should pay attention to these qualities before adopting or voting for any politician to become Nigeria's next president: Mental state, moral standpoint, personality and social qualification as well as knowledge about the domestic challenges across the country and the steps to address them.
6. We cannot change our situation without adequate participation; hence, it is important that we get involved in politics in spite of our reservations about it. Citizens should be interested in governance. Therefore, we must deliberately encourage the female gender to get involved in politics.



7. Decentralise the political party leadership structure. Do away with the position called “Women Leaders” to have a more inclusive structure for party executive selection.
8. Adoption of legislation and policies supporting a more gender-balanced representation into leadership positions and also effective implementation of policies that protect women, and PWDs from all kinds of discrimination in different spheres of life, such as the workplace, community, etc. The 35% affirmative action rate should be brought back and pushed further.
9. The adherence to cultural and societal norms continues to tie women down. For example, land and assets are still largely inherited by men in most traditional settings. Similarly, most women cannot be chiefs neither can they take on leadership positions.
10. Nigerians deserve a President with a growth mindset and a reformer with consistent effort and courage to reform the nation by strengthening our institutions. Strong institutions with leaders who are patriotic and followers who are ready to follow through are what we need. It is true the bulk stops at the leader's desk, but the followers have a critical role to play.





**THE REGIONAL  
CONSULTATIVE  
FORUMS**



## NIGERIA AND THE CHALLENGES OF NATIONAL UNITY

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### Overview

The development of a nation is highly dependent on the ability of its leaders to understand the collective aspirations of the people and work to make them a reality. The concept of national unity in Nigeria is fractured, so much so that there are cries across all the regions. The cries of oppression and marginalisation and the emergence of separatist agitators. Nigeria has never been this disunited and regrettably, the politicians who are elected as representatives of the people are taking advantage of the prejudices and stereotypes, and the citizens continue to be divided along tribal and religious lines.

A regional consultative forum became critical as the country draws closer to the 2023 general elections, especially amidst critical national challenges such as persistent inflation, high unemployment rate, insecurity, and growing distrust between the political elites and the masses, also the elections were perceived to be unique as it will be the first general elections to be conducted under the new electoral law.

The interaction was strategically designed to respond to burning questions around restructuring and national cohesion, targeting state and non-state actors including young professionals, women in politics, political party managers, and community leaders/traditional rulers, ultimately drawing recommendations on how the nation can return to those days when unity was desirable and sustainable.



## **NORTH CENTRAL CONSULTATIVE FORUM ILORIN, KWARA STATE**

AMPLIFYING ALL OF THE NATION APPROACH VS ALL OF THE GOVERNMENT APPROACH IN PROMOTING UNITY AND COHESION IN NIGERIA

### **Highlights**

1. Nigeria has never stopped looking for solutions to its national problems. The real challenge has been with the conceptualisation of solutions in terms of who should be in the driver's seat and who must also be on board as a condition for attaining the needed success rate.
2. One of the ways to frame Nigeria's problem is to view the progress Nigeria has made in terms of two paradigms; "All of the Government Approach (State-driven, multi-department and multi-agency approach. Government is the main catalyst but the private sector and civil society provide the necessary support) and All of the Nation Approach (Partnership-based processes involving government, private sector, citizens and civil society, the belief that government cannot do it alone)"
3. Nigeria has been faced with the overwhelming challenges of poverty, unemployment, terrorism and banditry, the power of the government alone is limited and cannot solve the problem, but the impact will be better if the solutions are within the framework of both "All of the Government Approach and All of the Nation Approach", a process that will be driven by accountability. Civil society can do what the government is unable to do, at the same time, citizens can take steps to ensure necessary government agencies implement policies and follow recommendations.
4. The challenges of national unity are inflamed by politicians due to desperation to win political offices. The Nigerian electoral system does not give room for second or third position; it is either a win or loss and everybody desires to win, this gives room for politicians to devise every means to win including intensifying the elements that divide us such as religion.



5. Nigeria's diversity has been one of our identities as a nation which is supposed to unite us, but our diversity has been poorly managed. It is only celebrated in a few contexts and has gradually become one of the challenges to national unity.

### *Challenges*

1. Failure of the government to deliver its mandate and to satisfy the aspirations of ethnic nationalities, particularly minorities are at the root of agitations for restructuring. Those in power fail to understand that the separatists' agitations are fueled by bad governance and failed leadership. Leaders must understand that a nation is under a social contract with its terms and conditions to protect the citizens and pursue general interests and not parochial interests. Government cannot exercise authority when it cannot meet the desires and aspirations of the people.
2. Security threats including terrorism, violent extremism and maritime insecurity continue to threaten the socioeconomic well-being of Nigerians.
3. Government actions or inactions have demonstrated a lack of commitment to ending corruption in Nigeria.
4. Mutual mistrust between Christians and Muslims as a result of propaganda regarding the causes of terrorism and violent extremism (e.g., strong belief in some quarters that these are tools used by some Muslims to achieve religious expansionism and assumptions among some Muslims that Christians hate Muslims).



1.

The conscious and sustained implementation of both the All-of-Government and All-of-Nation approaches are among the major pathways out of the myriad of challenges facing Nigeria.

2.

The political will to fight corruption, both from the public and private sectors, through a strong institution is necessary. Also, reducing the concentration of power at the centre would go a long way in ensuring good governance.



## ENHANCING ACTIVE YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN NIGERIA'S ELECTORAL PROCESS: 2023 ELECTIONS AS A CASE STUDY

### Highlights

1. Since 1999, the country has witnessed an increase in the evolution of youth and Civil Society Organisations involved in promoting electoral governance, citizen participation and public accountability. Social media has become a veritable tool assisting young people to organize against autocratic regimes and rigid public policies using tools like Twitter and Facebook. Some examples of impactful trends driven by young people in Nigeria are the #OccupyNigeria protests in 2012 and #NISStampede to seek justice for victims of the recruitment exercise among others.
  2. Elections are the central component of democratic societies. It is the act of selecting a representative and its process cuts across different segments of society such as youths, old persons, PWDs, etc. Ordinarily, elections in developed countries such as the USA have the entire citizens, especially the youths actively participating, unfortunately, in Nigeria and most African Countries, the story is different due to the prevalence of insecurity, hunger and deprivation, injustice, lack of inclusion, lingering rate of unemployment, divisive politics, and a rise in the number of agitators and separatists, kidnapping, mismanagement of scarce resources, bad economic policies leading to the economic crisis, amongst other ills.
  3. The segment of the country that would be a major decider on the future of a country is its teeming youthful population. If they can appreciate and refocus their strength in the electoral process, they will turn things for good in the country.
  4. The youth have always participated in Nigeria's electoral process. The question remains the impact of such participation; while, playing significant and visible roles in election management, such as Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Ad-hoc staff, political party polling agents as well as civil societies election observers, to make the electoral processes move almost seamlessly.
- Similarly, voter education and political mobilisation is the most prominent area with high records of youth engagement. Political parties harness the energy and intellect of



## ENHANCING ACTIVE YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN NIGERIA'S ELECTORAL PROCESS: 2023 ELECTIONS AS A CASE STUDY

during political campaigns and rallies. However, violence and elections in Nigeria cannot be complete without drawing attention to the role of jobless youth. Youths are mostly in a state of curiosity and high-spiritedness, with a high level of inexperience when it comes to election engagements. This set of jobless youth lean towards using their energies to get cheap rewards from greedy politicians. They are, most times, recruited by political office seekers to cause violence during campaigns and elections.

5. Nigeria is currently facing an economic crisis, strikes, widespread corruption, unemployment, divisive national politics and a general sense of dissatisfaction among citizens, particularly the youths who are essentially one of the largest groups in Nigeria. The 2023 general elections will be one of the most exciting since the 4th republic began in 1999. The spotlight will be on the youth as INEC recorded 71.4% of over 80 million registered voters.

However, the percentage tends to decline in the statistics of actual voters. This is why there is a need to encourage and enlighten the youths to actively participate in the forthcoming election process which will enable their voices and choice known.

6. The level of active participation among youth is not quite impressive, and it is influenced by several factors which include;
  - i. **Inadequate security measures during elections:** The failure of political parties to provide good leadership is one of the major reasons youths refuse to be involved in the electoral process.
  - ii. **Electoral malpractices/rigging:** The consistent reported electoral malpractices in nearly all the elections conducted in Nigeria makes some youths doubt the credibility of the forthcoming elections (since politicians have their winning ways and structures to rig elections), and would prefer not to "waste" their votes.



## ENHANCING ACTIVE YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN NIGERIA'S ELECTORAL PROCESS: 2023 ELECTIONS AS A CASE STUDY

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- iii. Economic disenfranchisement:** The youth may not have what it takes to afford the absurd cost of running for any political office during elections in Nigeria, as well as the inflated costs of running a political campaign for any elections in Nigeria, with figures reported to be as high as one billion naira to stage a moderate campaign. Running for elections in Nigeria is not cheap, especially for a young graduate with political ambitions.



1. The INEC should be seen to be truly independent; their budget and appointments should be free from any politician or political party influence. They should ensure transparency and a sustainable process of transmission of election results.
2. Eligibility of voting should be by a valid means of identification (National Identification Number, international passport, driver's license, etc). Permanent Voters' Card should only be made available to those who do not have any valid identification. This will even enable youths in the diaspora to vote.
3. Mobile voting should be introduced to complement electronic voting.
4. Security operatives and other elections officials whose actions lead to disruptions of elections or peaceful campaigns should be investigated and prosecuted.
5. Capacity development, through innovative and educative civic programmes like leadership training, mentorships and internships, should be encouraged in various communities.
6. The INEC should adopt the electoral volunteerism scheme.



# THE CHALLENGES OF NATIONAL UNITY BEYOND THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTIONS: ISSUES PECULIAR IN THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION

## Highlights

The following have been identified as the root causes of national disunity in the North Central Region;

1. Religious Intolerance
2. Ethnic bias
3. Leadership failure at all levels
4. Low level of citizen patriotism
5. Social inequality; the wide gap between the rich and the poor
6. Skewed leadership selection process.
7. Ignorance: There are so many misunderstandings due to ignorance about each other's ethnic and religious values.
8. Disregard for the rule of law both by the citizen and the leaders
9. Abuse of social media

## Recommendations

The participants recommended that to overcome the identified causes of disunity in the region, both state and non-state actors need to work together immediately and harmoniously.

1.

Nigeria is a multicultural society, and for growth, development, and national cohesion to be enhanced, the government should promote the Nigerian culture on a deep-rooted basis of religious and tribal tolerance. Citizens' reorientation as well as promoting religious tolerance should be encouraged and it is a collective responsibility of both state and non-state actors.



2.

There is a need for a national vision and promotion of civic education through frequent town hall meetings and mass media engagement.

3.

Leadership is a vital element for national unity. The Constitution, therefore needs to be reviewed to address the situation where leaders are not performing their responsibilities, improve political awareness and encourage grassroots political participation.

4.

Fairness in the allocation/distribution of wealth/resources/social amenities and equal opportunities in the national and state budgets.

5.

Improved leadership selection process by the unification of the Election Management Body.

6.

Regulation of social media through the enactment of laws by the state to discourage the circulation of fake news.

7.

Nigerians should be patriotic, as patriotism will engineer the spirit of brotherhood among citizens and serve as a bedrock for national unity.



## THE SOUTH-SOUTH CONSULTATIVE FORUM, BAYELSA STATE

### ENHANCING ACTIVE YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN NIGERIA'S ELECTORAL PROCESS: 2023 ELECTIONS AS A CASE STUDY

#### Highlights

1. An election is an effective way of promoting participation in governance, representation, and uniting diverse groups if the process is free, fair, credible and just. Nigeria has conducted many elections and had witnessed a plethora of electoral problems ranging from challenges of the Election Management Bodies (EMBs) to having an effective electoral process to safeguard the integrity of election outcomes.
2. Youth participation in Nigeria elections has been low and little is done to specifically target young people and build their confidence in the democratic electoral process as a vehicle for political renewal.
3. The Nigerian population continues to increase, and so does the number of youths. The population of youth (18-35 years) in Nigeria is 52.2 million (i.e., about 28% of the total population). In spite of the prospects that this number holds, young people in Nigeria are largely marginalised from governance, leaving them helpless to counter their continued exclusion. This is evidenced by the lower percentage of youth that holds political positions in the state.
4. The National Youth Policy Organisation, penned youth representation at 1% across all levels and tiers of governance in Nigeria. This does not look good for an emerging economy like Nigeria in a world that is going largely digital and is driven by the youth.
5. There are a lot of opportunities for youth inclusion in Nigerian politics. And that resurgence is around the corner going by the present youth movement for Labour Party. However, the right process has not been instituted. The youth need to:



- i. Re-organise themselves and resist money from the political oligarchy
- ii. Have a negotiating point
- iii. Shun the divisive tendencies of ethnicity and religion.

### *Challenges to Youth Participation in Electoral Process*

1. Nigerian youths are economically disenfranchised to afford the absurd cost of running for any office during elections in Nigeria. For instance, the presidential nomination form of a party in Nigeria goes for a hundred million naira. How about the cost of running a campaign?
2. With 45% of Nigerians living below the poverty line and another 23% at risk of slipping below the said line, we do not have to think twice that elections are for the exclusive reserve of the wealthy unless the youth play an active role.
3. EMBs have a crucial role to play in advancing the inclusion of youth in electoral processes and in the structures of political representation (elected political structures).
4. Voter apathy which typifies Nigeria's election has been a notable feature of our elections.
5. Another issue is the matter of quality voter education and enlightenment. Nigerians do not vote because they simply see no reason to, the ones who vote, are affected by the status quo of voting for the candidates who spend the more.



1. Youths should look beyond "simply voting" and instead vote intentionally – vote right. **A shift from voting the highest bidder to voting ideology.**
2. Youths can find candidates with youth-focused policies and plans for more inclusion and **negotiate with their voting strength.**
3. Evidence suggests that when civic education is introduced at a young age, people are **more likely to participate in elections**
4. Youths should be strategic to build credibility and start participating in the electoral **process with a life plan of action**
5. Nigerian youth should shift from the short-term thinking of "stomach infrastructure" to **participate in politics and the electoral process that enshrine sustainable socio-economic development of the country.**
6. Political party membership as a vehicle to ascend elective office: The Nigerian youth should be intentional in mass mobilisation to participate in party electoral processes at all levels. ward, local government, state and federal.



## *The Challenges of National Unity: Issues Peculiar in the South-South Region*

The following have been identified as the root causes of national disunity in the South-South Region;

1. **Resource control**
2. **Environmental degradation due to oil exploration**
3. **Poverty and**
4. **Unemployment**
5. **Loss of means of livelihood by oil exploration and exploitation**
6. **Poor value system**

## Recommendations

1. Amendment of the Petroleum Industrial Act (PIA) to replicate the provisions of the Solid Mineral Act in terms of environmental remediation and royalty, through National Assembly with wide consultation. This should be driven by the representatives from the South-South Region as well as the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).
2. A deliberate attempt should be made by the Federal Government and other relevant organisations to clean up the environment, payment of compensation and effective remediation.
3. There is a need for citizens to be educated on environmental protection.



4.

Job creation should be given utmost priority.

5.

The need for immediate steps by the federal, state, and local governments, the host/impact community and International Oil Companies (IOCs) to create alternative and sustainable means of livelihood.

6.

There is a need for reorientation in the value system, to respect each other differences, this should be done through structured advocacy and sensitisation by both state and non-state actors.



## NIGERIA AND THE CHALLENGES OF NATIONAL UNITY, BEYOND THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTIONS

### Highlights

1. Religion and ethnicity are the major instruments that divide us as a people. The elites use religion as a tool to widen the gap of division among the people, but in reality, it is a facade because the same thing that divides us also unites us. For instance, the majority of the citizen are hungry and hunger does not have coloration.
2. The history of our country from colonialism is the history of division. Structures are built to serve personal interests rather than national interests, and the ideology that drove it shows that some people are lesser human beings, and those who took over from them did not change that pattern, and those who rule this country share the same mentality and have carried it forward.
3. Marriage unites us as a people and in some instances, it is the same thing that is used to divide us same as football and politics.
4. The Constitution is full of inconsistencies. The framework for rights and privileges, both social and economic, has become so faulty that citizens do not care and assumed that things will get better. Most times, people just lament without taking any action.
5. No manifesto of any political party should contest with the fundamental objectives of the Country's constitutional arrangement.
6. The provision of security is a constitutional responsibility of the government thus; no government should be heard saying it is burdensome on it to provide security for the country.
7. Section 22 of the Constitution needs to be amended. Replace the office of the indigene with the office of the citizen. Nothing destroys a country more than discrimination. In other developed parts of the world, contribution to duty is correlated with recognition. Individuals who invested and live in a particular region should have citizen rights.



## NIGERIA AND THE CHALLENGES OF NATIONAL UNITY, BEYOND THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTIONS

8. Cultural relativism: How did we as a people find ourselves in it? We have refused to accept how we got to this point. We have failed to be accountable. The older generation has chosen not to be accountable, hence, they cannot demand accountability from the younger people.
9. What we are experiencing presently, for instance, the violent attacks, kidnappings and killings are consequences of our actions and inactions, both from the government and the citizens.
10. There is a need to pay attention to roles and responsibilities at all levels, both the CEO and Cleaner have an important responsibility towards the success of the organisation, and we all need to know that what we do as individuals affects society. We have poor followership, and the way to address this challenge is to take our role and duty seriously.
11. The national framework is achievable, but as citizens, we have to make demands on those who represent us and hold them accountable. Civic education needs to be promoted, until we make up our minds to demand, we cannot attain the change we desire.
12. Resource allocation has further disunited us as a people, and the root is found in the Constitution. The policymakers have identified the principles that contributed to disunity and have created principles like the federal character, but they are hardly implemented, and the institutions and political officeholders are not respecting these principles which continue to foster disunity.



1. The way to healing is to fight ignorance and challenge stupidity to turn around all the criticism and pursue knowledge for its own sake.
2. No country can change without strong institutions. We, therefore, need to agree and rethink our processes and change our ways.

### FOUR THINGS THAT NEED TO BE CURED WHICH CAN HELP US;

- a. **Malady of Ignorance:** Ignorance that makes people slavish should be fought through education. Our education system requires serious intervention. The system being practiced in our institution is structured by the colonialist which only helped them intensify colonialism, unfortunately, it is not a liberating system of education that can develop innovative skills.
- b. **Malady of Entitlement:** It is mainly a result of ignorance. Education is the ability to instill critical thinking not studying to gain employment and work as it is obtainable in our educational system.
- c. **Malady of Stupidity:** The uneducated are in charge of educating people. Actors within the formal and informal education setting need adequate and modern training to enable them to transfer efficient knowledge.
- d. **Malady of Deception:** We are too deceptive, and until the attitude of both the leaders and the followers is changed, we will remain the same as regards fighting corruption.





**LEAD RADIO  
CITIZEN'S TOWN  
HALL**



## **THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTIONS: THE NATION WE WANT AND THE PRESIDENT WE NEED**

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### **Overview**

As the country draws closer to the 2023 general elections, especially the position of the number one citizen of the country, many Nigerians are very concerned about who will be suitable to address the predicaments of the country. The general perspective is a country where people no longer get things based on merit, but based on connections; a country where three square meals a day is a luxury only few can afford. A country where people are not sure of what becomes of their future; a country where those who steal from the national treasures are rewarded with "traditional and religious titles", while petty thieves are incarcerated in prisons or faced with jungle justice; a country where the youths are frequently referred to as leaders of tomorrow but present policies do not reflect their realities for a better tomorrow.

These concerns and expressions of frustration reflect the mood of the nation. While some civil rights activists suggest that the time has come for concerted action to be taken to produce responsible governance through consensus that can work together. Efforts must be made by all to bring to life- justice, fairness and equity; otherwise, we will continue to ruin the development and progress of our country, Similarly, there should be an engagement of the people in challenging what is not acceptable through committed political movements to unsettling the rich oligarchy who have the resources and the leisure to plan and control the system.



## Highlights

1. Nigeria needs a President with the ability to transform the country from a nation of tribesmen to citizens, this is the function of good leadership. There is nowhere in the world where citizens do the right thing without the leadership leading the process and creating such structure.
2. The next President every Nigerian want is not about religion or tribe, but about hunger and lack of security, thus the desired President is a leader who will be able to provide for all, be tolerant and have the spirit of forbearance i.e., who will not easily take offense nor spend time attacking the oppositions.
3. The leadership needs to be all-encompassing. Any country that is developed today has an enlightened leadership based on social cohesion, inclusivity and social justice which was able to unite the common national agenda to emerge as global competitors in global resources.
4. Nigerian democracy cannot be termed as a failure rather we have not achieved the needed dividend. The challenges of disunity started in Nigeria because the concept of democracy was forced on the people. Democracy cannot develop faster than the citizenry, and the human capital index is very low.
5. Nigeria has had all kinds of leaders, but when we evaluate them all, the level of progress is pitiable. We need to have a sense of responsibility moving forward, to evaluate all the candidates presented by the political parties based on character and competence; in so doing, we can be able to select the candidate fit to address the challenges in the country.
6. The reason we have so much disunity in Nigeria is due to a sense of exclusion. Most conflicts in Nigeria are traced to exclusion and when there is so much exclusion as it has been witnessed in Nigeria, it leads to agitation. Therefore, in choosing the next leader, it is important to consider who has the capacity for inclusivity.
7. Until we recognize our diversity, Nigeria may never overcome its challenges of unity.



## Challenges

1. Nigerian leaders, past and present, have not been able to end the fighting over regional control of the resource. This has continued to hinder the economic progress needed to compete globally.
2. Nigerians are too divided and we do not desire for each other what we desire for ourselves.
3. There is a need to understand our national/personal identities and appreciate each other's differences.

## Recommendations

1. There is a need for the next leader to be able to identify and unite the people around common agenda to bring about social cohesion.
2. The National Orientation Agency (NOA) should go into a strategic partnership with the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the country.
3. The level of disconnect between the regions keeps widening, to overcome this challenge, Nigerians should choose a leader who has the character to bring inclusion, justice, and fairness.



## IMPACT OF THE NAIRA REDESIGN AND THE NEW CBN REGULATIONS ON THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTIONS

### Highlights

1. Electoral statistics seem to show that electorate illiteracy is not increasing in the same phase as the number of newly registered voters, especially with the reported increase in the number of youths and the narrative that they are the deciders of the 2023 general election.
2. The issues of violence arise from factors such as a lack of internal democracy in the political parties and ineffective conflict resolution mechanisms among others. This is evident by the high number of litigations after party primary elections.
3. The intentions of the naira swap policy are commendable; however, the major issue is the strategy of implementation by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the commercial banks, judging from the obvious pains and hardship being experienced by the people over the non-availability of the new notes while most of the old notes have been withdrawn from circulation.
4. In terms of voter turnout, the policy has little impact because most polling stations are now closer to the people, while in the case of vote buying, the policy only focuses on mega cash inducement on election day, ignoring the cash transaction which goes on before the election.
5. The election will hold amidst security challenges and naira scarcity, which indicates a trigger to violence and voter apathy judging by videos on social media of people in frustration, not being able to access cash to meet up daily needs.



1. Policies should be well thought out before execution because poorly executed policies may not stand.
2. States at risk of violence should be sensitised on violence risks and how to avoid them before, during, and after elections.
3. There is a need to be thorough in all election processes, especially in leadership recruitment across all levels.





## SIXTH NATIONAL ONLINE FORUM/POLICY DISCUSSION ON THE STATE OF THE NATION

**THEME: REVIEW OF THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTIONS: SHAPING A PATH FOR NATIONAL UNITY, COHESION AND DEVELOPMENT**



## REVIEW OF THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTIONS: SHAPING A PATH FOR NATIONAL UNITY, COHESION AND DEVELOPMENT

### Overview

The 2023 general elections like previous elections, have left an indelible mark in the electoral history of the nation since its return to democracy in 1999. Though the election came with its own worry from different clusters, the engagement of stakeholders from different parts of the country made the 2023 elections generally peaceful against all odds.

Despite the year in year out progress of INEC, some challenges were encountered which was attributed to the poor institutional preparedness, particularly regarding the transmission of results, cum the poor discharge of duties by the INEC officials in some part of the country.

However, a new precedence has been set for the nation's democracy, which is credited to the new electoral law and the active citizens' participation before and during the elections, but more needs to be done to further solidify the gains that were recorded in the 2023 elections while the odd experiences are deliberately discarded for the purposes of national unity and cohesion.

### Highlights

1. The 2023 general election is not perfect throughout the country. This can be traced to the political dynamics that played out in all the regions before the election, such as tribal and racial issues, for instance in Lagos; religious /ethnic differences in North Central and other regions, but there was notable progress juxtaposing the election with previous election outcomes.
2. For the first time, there was ease in the accreditation and voting process following the use of the Bimodal Voter's Accreditation System (BVAS), an innovative election technology, during both the presidential and gubernatorial elections. The machine also aided in the prevention of vote manipulation; an issue that characterised the previously conducted general elections in the nation.
3. Voters' apathy has been attributed to multifaceted issues. Failed promises of the electoral umpire to perform optimally, for instance, the issue of logistics. There were



several cases of the late arrival of electoral materials to polling units across the federation especially during the presidential elections. Security agencies' inability to protect voters, politicians on issues of vote buying and suppression, and social media verbal violence, became more glaring during the state elections.

4. INEC was seemingly unable to oversee some of its officials; in particular, the newly appointed Resident Electoral Commissioners (RECs), who were saddled with the responsibility of overseeing elections in nineteen states of the federation. Despite Civil Society Organisations attempts at halting their appointments by presenting petitions to the National Assembly, on the grounds of lack of experience and partisanship their appointments were still maintained. Subject to the whims and caprices of their political sentiments, they failed to effectively undertake their duties.
5. There is a highly growing trend of mistrust in the judicial system. An electoral process is only said to have been completed only after all judicial adjudication. The court has the constitutional obligation to adjudicate, thus the need to trust in the system and allow the process so as to avoid anarchy.
6. Part of the challenges Nigeria has is too much concentration in the national space, the focus is mostly on the general election, national budget, etc. Elections hold at local at the local government levels without a framework and that is where the majority of citizens learn democracy.
7. The electorate, especially the youths' participation in the area of mobilisation and coordination, was very commendable, credit to this is the civil societies who made deliberate steps to encourage youth participation.
8. There is a need to clarify the prosecution of electoral offenders between the court and the police.
9. In reviewing the 2023 elections, it is important to interrogate what went wrong and where the process got it right as well as track events from previous elections such as the voters register, and new electoral framework. This is the fundamental way of assessing issues in the general elections. The absence of this truth will continue to create what does not exist by extension.



10. The currency redesign did not stop any form of vote buying, it only exacerbated it because people did not have cash so they were ready to sell their votes at any dangled cash, materials and food items.

## Recommendations

1. Nigeria needs a leadership audit at the sub-national level, the citizens need to engage leaders for the purposes of accountability and transparency.
2. Ethnic prejudice and profiling should be identified and provisions for punishment be clearly stated.
3. Voter education and sensitisation are very key. A teeming illiterate population must be reached with information on elections. Hence, INEC's sensitisation drive must target the grassroots and work with the communities' information platforms through the local governments. Nigerians deserve to be carried along in the electoral process. This will allow the citizens to make informed decisions on the election, reduce vote buying/selling and ultimately validate the integrity of the election.
4. INEC needs to devise a comprehensive strategy regarding the large volume of uncollected Permanent Voter's Cards (PVCs) to ensure people collect their voter cards.
5. Security during the elections need to improve at all stages, priority should be placed on rural/interior areas as opposed to only urban cities. To effectively achieve this, security personnel need to be trained appropriately ahead of the election.
6. Political parties should be made to have an electronic register of all their party members.
7. INEC needs to build on trust and confidence going forward and one area is in their procurement process. There should be transparency.



## CONCLUSION

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Political discourse frequently ends with more questions than answers, at the fore of Nigeria's issues are the elites who are more concerned about the accumulation of wealth which is driven by self-interest, as opposed to a desire to transform the nation's narrative and trajectory.

INEC should come up with another technology on which the voting would be undertaken and the results sent to a centralised portal, rather than the continuous dependence on an outdated system involving the use of easy-to-rig papers.

With regard to elections, citizens' faith should not be lost in the judiciary which remains the last hope of the masses, the main focus should be on national unity regardless of our differences, in the quest to develop the nation.

At 62 years of independence and at 108 years of her amalgamation, Nigeria still has a serious problem of unity, linked to her diversity. Different administrations, both military and civilian, since independence in 1960 made national unity their important agenda through programmes and policies. The established institutions were meant to unify the country at various times. Policies and institutions such as the Federal Character Principle, the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), unity schools, national symbols, National Orientation Agency (NOA) and mantras such as "the unity of the nation is not negotiable", among others have been adopted to facilitate national unity in Nigeria.

Despite all the programmes introduced to bridge the gaps of marginalisation in Nigeria, the gap between the various groups seems wider as the nation is still plagued with ethnic rivalry, religious intolerance, political exclusion, the quest for self-determination, power sharing and violent agitations to mention a few.

The Centre observed uniform factors during the National and Regional Forums' which can be attributed to the challenges of national unity, numerous factors including, poverty, unemployment, environmental injustice, religious affiliations, political differences and ethnic diversity.

Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy and Development and her partners like the MacArthur Foundation and the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) shall continue to contribute to carrying out programmes that can facilitate the quest for national unity and cohesion.



# PHOTO SPEAK





# PHOTO SPEAK





## **ABBREVIATIONS**

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**Government of National Unity (GNU)**  
**National Youth Service Corps (NYSC)**  
**Open Government Forum (OGF)**  
**Leadership Effectiveness and Accountability Dialogue (LEAD)**  
**Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)**  
**National Orientation Agency (NOA)**  
**Permanent Voter's Cards (PVC)**  
**Non-Government Organisations (NGOS)**  
**Electoral Management Body (EMB)**  
**Persons with Disability (PWD)**  
**Gender Strategy Advancement International (GSAI)**  
**Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)**  
**Petroleum Industrial Act (PIA)**  
**Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)**  
**International Oil Companies (IOCs)**  
**Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**  
**Bi-modal Voter's Accreditation System (BVAS)**  
**Resident Electoral Commissioners (RECs)**  
**Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC)**



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## ABOUT SAVANNAH CENTRE

Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy and Development (SCDDD) is a non-governmental organization committed to research, advocacy training and policy analysis in the areas of conflict prevention, management, democracy and sustainable development in Nigeria and Africa. The SCDDD is leading strategic discussions on inclusive governance for sustainable development, in order to promote human security, sustainable peace, good governance, rule of law and human rights in Nigeria and Africa, shaping public policy through research and knowledge sharing. We are committed to improving the democratic and governance space through advocacy and the provision of context-specific training and solutions to governments, policy makers and some non-state actors.

