

A Call to ALL the Citizens of Nigeria:

GRAB the Opportunity of a Restart

25th February: Start working for Making Nigeria Great

February 25, 2023

Many of the citizens of Nigeria are pessimists about the future of Nigeria. Some don't even think of themselves as Nigerians.

On this 25th February, DiGiNews360.com calls upon all the citizens to visualize Nigeria, in their minds, as the BEST country of Africa. It is possible and Nigerians can do it within the next two decades.

John Campbell, a former U.S. ambassador to Nigeria, in his recent book, *Nigeria and the Nation-State*, says –its people lack a shared sense of what it means to be “Nigerian.” Campbell describes Nigeria as “not quite a nation” and “not quite a state.”

Home to more than 250 ethnic groups and three distinct religious affiliations, it is the second most diverse country in the world. India has even more diversity with 645 tribes and with every possible religion of the world represented by substantial numbers in its population of about 1400 million. But through Affirmative action since 1950, India has moved its large tribal population towards the mainstream till today its President Draupadi Murmu is a tribal from a small village Uperbeda in the jungles of Orissa State and she is the **Commander-in-Chief of India's large Armed Forces.**



President of India: Smt. Draupadi Murmu

Enumerating the **SUCSESSES & PROGRESS** of Nigeria as a Nation:

Nigeria has also made some progress during the last few years **in spite of the huge setback** caused by **the Nigerian coup d'état** of 15 January 1966, followed by the Biafaran war of 1967-70. This led to a large number of killings, hatred for the South Easterners among the Yorubas and the Hausas and loss of a feeling of Nigerian identity, more particularly among the South Easterners.

DiGiNews360.com counts the following successes of Nigeria, as a nation-state:

1. **PROGRESS in cultivating a National Spirit:** Nigerians from different ethnic groups have become more tolerant of one another. This is happening gradually as shown by World Values Survey from 1990 to 2020 (Reference: <https://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/wvs.jsp>). The Federal system of devolvement of power & resources and of informal rules of political inclusion have helped. The process can be hastened by good governance and by elimination of feeling of insecurity by a strong stress on Law and Order. This may in due course induce a stronger sense of Nigerian Identity among all the 250 ethnic groups.

A stronger national spirit is engendered through pride in the National Football Team and the world-wide success of talented Nigerian artists, musicians and professionals. Common country-wide agitations or campaigns can also help in the process.

2. **SUCCESS in avoiding a Civil War after 1970:** The Federal and the Zoning system and creation of nine States in South East have devolved power among different ethnic groups.
3. **STRENGTHENING the Democratic System:** After 16 years of rule by the People's Democratic Party, when President Goodluck Jonathan lost to Muhammadu Buhari of the All Progressive Congress in 2015, it showed that the voters could punish a non-performing government. Recently when a better-managed Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) introduced the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) and the INEC Results Viewing (IReV) Portal, it leads to greater transparency and confidence in the electoral system.

4. **Likelihood of a CONDUCTIVE International Environment:** The world is slowly overcoming the Pandemic. If USA and Russia-China don't drag the world down the precipice of WW III, the Ukraine war may wind down. Then the environment may become conducive for Nigeria to receive help from the west.

Pandemic and Ukraine war have created economic challenges for the whole of the world. In addition, droughts and lack of modernization and investments in agriculture has created a pool of young unemployed persons, with no visible avenues of progress. Such persons enrol as groups of radical and terrorist militias. Nigerian Government collects the lowest tax, as a %age of GDP, as compared to not only the developed world but also the developing world. As such, the Federal Government is unable to provide security, higher investments in education, research and health and in services like active promotion of businesses for creating jobs for the young. Hence, Nigeria is caught in a VICIOUS cycle of

Low Tax Revenues → minimal Federal services to people → poor governance → poor quality of life for people → Loss of pride in being a Nigerian → acceptance of evils such as bribery, participation in banditry & vandalization.

This leads to a further reduction in collection of Revenue.

DiGiNews360.com expects the new President will be able to pull Nigeria out of the vicious cycle and move it into the VIRTUOUS cycle of:

Higher Availability of Funds → Progressively Improving (PI) Federal services to people → PI governance → PI quality of life for people → PI pride in being a Nigerian → Progressive Rejection of evils such as bribery, participation in banditry & vandalization.

This leads to a higher collection of Revenue.

Taking into account the above 4 factors DiGiNews360.com does not agree with the views of John Campbell, (expressed in his recent book- *Nigeria and the Nation-State*). DiGiNews360.com rejects emphatically the case study of Nigeria, published by the Center for Strategy and Technology of Air University, titled "Failed State 2030." It says that Nigeria is a state that only exists on paper, sustained by the recognition of the international community.

DiGiNews360.com predicts, after looking at the manifestoes of the three major candidates that the President, who will assume office on May 29, 2023 will move Nigeria from the VICIOUS cycle into the VIRTUOUS cycle.

The movement can be initiated by accretion of funds through help by the west or through a judicious increase of taxes. Though the former is an easier option, DiGiNews360.com advocates that the new President should take the option of progressing through self-reliance.

DiGiNews360.com conveys its BEST WISHES to all the Nigerian citizens, among its Readers, for a successful election and fast progress under a new President.

FUTURE SCENARIO:

DiGiNews360.com expects a Nigeria, largely secure for its citizens and guests in 4 years.

DiGiNews360.com then expects large foreign investments and fast development of Nigeria's infrastructure. It will enable Nigeria to invest more in its educational and health sectors, making it a Leader of the developing world in 20 years.

In another 8 years, Nigeria will become a developed country.
