



## NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT: YOUTH FRUSTRATION AND HOPE IN THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY WHAT HOPE FOR NIGERIAN YOUTH

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**Abstract:** Youth are seen as leaders of tomorrow, as nation without youth is a nation without feature and destiny. They are vanguard for positive and negative change in any society it depends on how their potentialities are harnessed. They are referred to leaders of tomorrow. The above mantra in Nigerian that has no relevance on what is operational and obtainable in Nigerian political atmosphere, Nigerian political climate is dominated by few men and women that are above fifty years of age. A statistics of Africans political gladiators, actors and political office holders and Nigerian in particulars proves this to be true as over 98 percent of them are above 50 years. This paper will examine the conceptual explication of the word youth, governance system and brief history of Nigerian federalism. Aggression frustration theory was used as the theoretical framework for this study as it reflects the action of Nigerians frustrated youths as a result of dash to all their aspirations, needs and yearning for a better lifewhich turned illusory .The paper revealed the frustration and aggression faced by Nigerian youths and how they channel their grievances negatively since the government are part of their miseries and woos. The divide and rule system adopted by Nigeria political elites has prevented youths from articulating and galvanizing effort on how to restructure Nigeria and make leaders accountable to the people was revealed. The constitutional and institutional framework made by our political gladiators to remain in power forever and recycling of their cronies coupled with age limits and other stringent prerequisite that have characterized Nigerian political system all aimed at quarantining the future of youths and making them pauper forever in term of governance and decision making. List of youth empowerment program in Nigeria that had no positive impact on the youth rather those policies and programs were used to pacify their political associates that sees the opportunity as a conduit to siphon our patrimonial wealth. The paper went further to explicate youth and political participation in Nigerian, Youth reactions in the society in form of atrocious heinous crimes are product of aggression via frustration. The effect of Youths frustration and aggression in the society are made manifest through the escalation in crime rate on tsunamic alarming velocity. How youth can make positive impact in the society was listed. Recommendations were made on how youths can make positive impact in the development of the nation through a legal, constitutional, attitudinal, and institutional framework, provision of enabling environment for the youth to explore and exploit all their potentialities positively for effective optimal development which will usher in their liberation and freedom for a better prosperous nation with active and useful resourceful youth participation in all area of human engagement.

**Keywords:** Nigeria Government, Youth, Frustration and Hope.

### Introduction

Nigerian government over the years has done little or nothing to her teaming youth population this is revealed via frustration,

poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and high level of criminalities among the youth. Youth are the pillar of any nation if properly mentored and developed. They have all what it takes to build a

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nation and what it takes to pull down a nation or throw a nation into war. The development of any nation is predicated on the development of her youths, as a developed youth is a developed nation and a developed nation is a developed youth. No wonder why developed nation of the world have less crime rate and youth restiveness compared to African nations where youths are aggrieved and frustrated every minutes leading to high level of criminalities and atrocious crimes committed by them. The high rate of insecurity as witness in Nigerian today is a result of failed government, that has categorically failed to develop and empower her youths leading to frustration and aggression of the youth, the end product of this aggression is increase in crime and insecurity. Nigerian youth are left to the whims and vagaries of nature to pursue and achieve their goals and aspiration in life. They are left to their fate and faith. There is a biblical verse that says “since the day of John the Baptist the kingdom of God has suffered violently men of violent obtained it by force Matthew 11:12. This verse clearly refers to Nigerian youth as they try to make ends meet at all cost. Resorting to crimes and criminalities in the society. There is no plan for the youth from the government of the day both past and present, instead they are used and dump during and after election by the few ruling oligarchy. Frustration and aggression theory anchored this research work. The Boko- Haram in the north, militancy in South -South, Biafra in South – East, cultism and everyday killing in both rural and urban areas in some states of the federation to mention but few.

#### **Conceptual Explication**

**NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT.** Nigeria is a geographical expression as postulated by Late Pa. Awolowo , that is referred to a bounded territorial group of nations with a government. Sequel to the coming of the European the place called Nigeria today was inhabited by different multiple ethnic groups and culture, namely Igbo, Yoruba, Hansua, Ijaw, Igala, to mention but few with over 150 ethnic languages and groups with an estimated population of 186 million people. Nigerian refers to the citizens of Nigeria; as a circular state, there are both Christians and Muslims including the African traditional worshippers.. The name Nigeria was given to the geographical expression by the wife of the then Governor –General Fredrick Lugard, named Flora Shaw she coined the two words Niger Area to form

Nigeria. The country is located on the coast of West Africa, with a population of 198,200,000 estimated, language spoken are English, Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba and others. The area called Nigerian came under the colonial power of Britain after the partitioning of African in Berlin Germany in 1884- 1885. Britain surreptitiously and subtly subjugated the Africans living in that area and established their colonial government that marked the beginning of colonialism. The area was ruled separately at the initial time; in 1906 the colony of Lagos was joined to the southern colony and protectorate. In 1914 the Southern colony and protectorate was joined with the Northern Nigeria Protectorate. There were series of struggles for self -government as championed by nationalist leaders which led to series of constitutional changes and conferences that gradually led to attainment of political independence in 1<sup>st</sup> October 1960. From 1<sup>st</sup> October Nigerian became an independent nation politically with a written constitution operating a federal system of government. Nigerian federalism was a product of necessity, wish and aspirations of our nationalist leaders, the geographical, institutional heterogeneous, pluralistic nature of the nation supported federalism above all federalism was more convenient for our then colonial master Britain. Hence federalism was adopted.

**What is government?** Wikipedia (2016) defined government as a system or group of people governing an organized community often a state, which consist of legislature, executive and the judiciary. It is a means by which organizational policies are enforced as well as a mechanism for determining policies. The Columbia Encyclopedia (2015) defines government as a system of social control under which the right to make laws, and the right to enforce them is vested in a particular group in a society. Government can be defined in three broad ways first as an institution of the state, secondly as an art of governing and finally as a field of study. Harold Damerow (1968) defined government as the body responsible primarily for making public policy for the entire society noting that it is the steering mechanism for a given society. Government according to Black Law Dictionary state that institution of government regulates the relationship amongst members of a society and between the society and outsiders and they have the authority to make decisions for the society to meet goals and maintain order. From



the forgoing definition government can be defined as a body of people legally backed up with the power and authority to make laws, execute laws and interprets laws in any given society. This means that activity of any state is been piloted by the government. There are three arms of government namely, the legislature, whose duty is to make laws, the executive role is execute the laws made by the legislature and the judiciary interpret and adjudicate the laws. In Nigeria government there is separation of powers, currently Nigeria operates on presidential system of government. Nigerian federal system is unique in all ramifications in the world as there a lot of things peculiar to Nigeria federalism. In a federal state, powers are shared within the component units with the government at the center called federal government and other units namely state and local government. There is some degree of autonomy granted to both the state and local government to operate on its own pace provided such operations is within the ambit of the laws as contained in the constitution of the federal republic of Nigerian which is written and rigid.

**What is Governance?** According to Daniel Kanfmann governance can be defined as embodies of traditions and institution by which authority in a country is exercise for common good, he noted that a good governance system can be assessed with its relationship to the following key concept, accountability, transparency, participation and predictability Ali (2015) added . Governance refers to the various ways through which social lie is coordinated. It is a process of social engagement between the rulers and the ruled in the society. Nnoli 2003, Nyewusira 2007) Governance is the process of exercising power and decision –making for a group of people and includes the process by which such decisions are implemented or not implemented Okerennngwo (2011.149). Rhodes (1996) defined governance as the existence of multiplicity of agencies, which extended a cross conventional public and private sector boundaries and which are collectively important for the development and delivery of public policy. Tahir Naveed defines governance as the management of resources, and organization of individuals and groups into formal and informal bodies and institutions and businesses through social, political, administrative and economic mechanism. UNDP (2004) defines governance as a process

encouraging staff incentives, training of civil servants, administrative and fiscal decentralization and dialogue between government and civil society. Etoungue Manguella (2016) posited good governance implies presence of rule of law, safeguard of human rights, and existence of honesty and efficient government, accountability, transparency, predictability and openness. Nigerian government and governance system is the process and pattern used by the state in achieving or not achieving its set goal through an established institutional framework backed by the law of the state.

**YOUTH:** Youth as a concept has no universal acceptable definition, to contextualize, it is imperative to give few definitions by authors on the concept youth. The central theme amongst all the definitions is that it points to a particular age brackets of a country's population from infancy to adulthood, although there are variations on the age brackets. Life as we know is in stages from embryo to conception, pre natal and post natal environment then from babyhood to childhood, adulthood and finally old age. This process of metamorphoses at every stage has its own unique characteristics. United Nation defines youth as people within the age bracket of 15 to 24 years. African Youth Chatter tagged youth as people within the age of 15 and 35 years. Nigerian National Youth Policy (2009) tagged youth to be young people within the age of 18-35 years. The variation in age depends on the nation culture, values, historical background, socio political and economic realities of the nation. Macmillan Dictionary defined youth as the time of life when one is young but often means the time between childhood and adulthood (maturity) (2013) UNSCO (2014) posit that youth is best understood as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood's, independence as a member of a community. It is more of fluid category than fixed age –group. UNESCO went further to state that it is a period in which a person develop capabilities and social skills required to be ready for the financial gain and responsibility to be brought by the status of adulthood. Youth are seen as agent of positive and negative change depending on how they are mentored, guarded and utilized. The importance of youth in any nation cannot be overemphasis ranging from all their capabilities and potentialities if positively harnessed. The future of any nation lies on the youth. A nation that wants to attain greatness and



sustain the greatness attained should invest and develop her youths positively as a developed youth is a developed nation. It is better to develop the youth positively and make them participate in the scheme of things than leaving them to whims and vagaries of nature which potent an eminent cataclysm catastrophes for the nation. A nation where hope for the youth is illusory and nebulous. The youth see the society as place for survival amongst the fittest “whichever and whatever man must survive” one of them told me in confidence. Youth have great propensity to influence things for better or for worst and will be ready to dawn all the consequences provided they achieve their heart desire. The youth are men and women of vigor, valor, intelligent, articulate, dynamic, energetic if well utilized and mentored their good qualities can be galvanized to move Nigeria to a greater height and transmogrified the society into a better place for man and humanity. Ekwuruka (2007) said “this is the period of vigor, curiosity, spiritedness action and inexperience. Recent studies carried out shows that youth are used for violence in Nigeria and in other third world countries in perpetrating crime by politicians and government. MaAlter (2004) Nweke (2005) Bazza (2008) discovered that politicians and government use youth as instrument for destructive anti –social vices. Youth are always available vulnerable for used because they are idle, not well educated and above all poverty engulfed. No wonder develop nations like Canada, USA, UK and Rome have fewer issues on youth restiveness and criminalities than what we have here in African namely Nigeria, Congo, Tunisia and Egypt. Youth can change things for better if they are well organized and articulated for instance youths in Greece, Tunisia, and Egypt help to restructure the political development in their respective countries through conscious synergies effort. Youth can as well plunge a nation to war as we have had war in some African nations namely Liberia, Sudan, Rwanda, Congo. They course insecurity and create tension in the nation when they are not properly educated, empowered and utilized. A Clear case is the Boko Haram threat in northern Nigerian, militancy and kidnapping saga in South- South, the Biafra agitation in South – East.

The Revised National Youth Policy (2009) Youth becomes dynamic actors and play distinct roles in building the nation. How real is this statement in Nigerian government and

governance system? Nigerian Government has paid deaf hear to explore and exploit all the positive potentialities of her youth since independence till date. It must be note that the youth of this nation during the colonial ere played a very dominant role in the nationalist movement. Late Obafemi Awolowo, Tafewa Belewa, Samuel Akintola, Anthony Enahoro, Alvan Ikoku, to mention but few where instrumental in the attainment of political independence for the nation and they were within the age bracket of twenties and thirties as youths. . The Nigerian Youth Movement was a youth body that championed so many political courses and canvassed for emancipation and end of colonial rule during the colonial ere. Why have the nation forgotten so soon the youths and her role during the era of struggle for self-government. Nigerian government has failed woefully for not investing, empowering and mentoring her youth properly to get positive result. Government at level has failed the youth no youth program and policies, no empowerment, no employment, no participation in positive politics. Youth are left to fate and accept whatever that comes their way with faith. This portends great danger to the nation, what we are seeing now is just a tip of the iceberg. Greater danger ahead if nothing is done to combat and address the problems of the youth this nation is heading for calamitous calamity. Nweke (2005) Baba and Ogundiya (2005) Ajayi (2007) are of the view that “ government programs and policies in empowering the youths, tackling the problem of unemployment and poverty amongst the youth are ill-motivated and poorly implemented from 1960 till date name any one of such programme and policies, and analyze it critically you will come up with same inference. The recent Conflict Resolution and Empowerment Generation and SURE-P Empowerment Scheme ended up in the hands of loyal faithful party members and served as a leeway to siphon the national wealth.

#### **Aim of the study.**

The main aim of this study is to examine critically the factors that are responsible for high criminalities amongst Nigerian youths.

To find out why government at all level has refused to come up with policy and program that will benefit the youths.

Why youth have failed to unit and articulate their effort together to ask for a change or move for change.



Why youths are used and dump by political gladiators and players.

The study will examine the implication of used and dumped youth.

Finally, this study will proffer solution on how youths can help themselves, how government through their governance system can help the youth to be useful members of the society. How youth can be turned to be useful members of the society.

#### Research Question

1. What have you benefited from government for the past 16 years?
2. Why do you commit crime or join secret society?
3. What are the probable solution to end frustration, crime and criminalities?

#### Methodology

This study made use of historical descriptive analysis to investigate and analyzed data gotten from both primary and secondary sources. Secondary data from journals, books, magazines, newspapers, gazettes, United Nation reports, and internet materials were reviewed and analyzed. The researcher also made use of primary data and interviewed some persons whose identity will not be revealed here. The use of interview and one on one discussion with the youth made it easier for gathering of data. Secondary data used were dependable reliable and accurate because they are document published validated materials.

#### Theoretical Framework

The importance of Theoretical framework in research cannot be underrated. It can be seen as compass that directs the ship on the ocean. It is the structure that anchors the research work. Theoretical framework introduces the theory that explain the work and phenomenon and why the research is a problem Berreit (2013). This study made use of Frustration –Aggression Theory, which was developed in early 1930s. The relevance of this theory in analyzing and explaining phenomenon in all most all disciplines and area of human endeavor ranging from psychology ,sociology, criminology, political sciences ,natural and applied sciences, biological and medical sciences, Berkowitz (1963) Scott (1948) asserted the theory was used to explain human behaviors. There are series of empirically

validated studies done with this theory has proved that frustration and aggression are linked together.

Dollard, Doob, Miller, Mowrer and Sear (1939) stated that the occurrence of aggressive behaviors always presupposes the existence of frustration and contrariwise, that existence of frustration always leads to some forms of aggression. Dollard and his associate Morlan (1949) argued that frustration of an aggressive impulse increases the strength of the aggression is based on the presupposition that expression of aggression serves as a catharsis, which revolves in a vicious circle that leads to further aggression. This theory went further to explain that aggression is the result of blocking, or frustrating a person's effort to attain a goal. Aggression is one of the characteristics of human behaviors that explain pounce on or assaulting another. Etymologically it means anger, violent behaviors, with the intent to hurt a person or damage to property. Aggression is not accidental rather a calculated initiated action course as a result of actions and counter actions, reactions to situations and circumstances. Sigmud Fred said that aggression is instinctual and inevitable, the goal of all instinct is to reduce tension and excitation to a minimum and eventually to its elimination, thus allowing human to return to the serene state previously.

John Dollard claim that that aggression can only be arouse by frustrating situation and events. He maintained that human are born with the desire to acquire knowledge and in –built potential to behave aggressively but whether or not they do depends on what happens within the environment. Frustration is defined as inability to gain goal and aggression as consequences of frustration, a product of relative deprivation, which is an expectation that opens up a gap between aspirations and achievement.

Relating the frustration aggression theory to this study, the youths have aspirations and goals they wish to achieve if all things been equal. Many of the youths have spent time in the universities, studied hard with the hope of getting a good job and having access to other good things in life but reverse is the case as youth stays for 10- 20 years without job and no form of empowerment from government non welfare package to ameliorate their condition. After much years of waiting without achieving anything youths get frustrated which culminates to aggression and the end product is crime and social vices. They



vent their anger mostly on innocent people that are not part of their problems. Deprivation and marginalization of Nigerian youths from better life and good opportunities is a clear indication and manifestation of high crime in the society and high rate of insecurity here and there. The Boko Haram, kidnapping, road blocking, bunkering, robbery, human trafficking, militancy, internet fraud, sex abuse, drugs abuse, Biafra, etc are all product of frustration and aggression. Youths have taken their destiny by themselves negatively. These abnormalities are product of bad governance system by past and current leaders. They have no plan for the youth. Frustration – Aggression theory is really in operations in Nigeria. There are some states, communities and villages you cannot travel to because youths has taken over and established their own system of government both in northern and southern Nigerian. Youth have resorted to fate and faith with a slogan “one thing must kill a man, all death na death “. The above are slogans of a person or group of persons without hope, anger and frustration can lead to desperation. Honestly, it is not easy to eke a living in Nigeria as a youth. People are getting frustrated on daily bases. Frustration is a common emotional response to opposition related to anger, annoyance, and disappointment Wikipedia. Frustration arises from the perceived resistance to the fulfillment of an individual will or goal is denied or blocked. Frustration leads to aggression, quitting, giving up, loss of self- esteem, self- confidence, stress and depression. Nigerian youth are frustrated because of bad economy, no job, no education, no empowerment, no social basic amenities, no security. The multiplier effect of frustration is aggression which is evinced in high rate of criminalities among the youth. Suicide and suicide bombing, human trafficking, internet fraud, cultism and thugs are end product of frustration from bad government.

#### DATA ANALYSIS

#### YOUTH PROGRAME IN NIGERIA AND YOUTHS PARTICIPATION AND BENEFITS.

Nigerian past and present government has done little or nothing to ameliorate the frustrating excruciating condition faced by her youths. Many of the youths complained that they have not benefited anything from Government for the past 20 years. One is totally startled to hear this, from data collected it was gathered that the few programs and policies government come up for the

youth was just a financial conduit for political associates to enrich their cronies. The selection and collection of forms has been on sentiment and party affiliation. In a community I gathered that one politician gave the empowerment form to all his relations even his family brother of 75 years old was given form and empowered to the detriment of other youth in the community.

Nigerian government have had the following youth program

1. Operation feed the nation
2. National Directorate for Employment
3. Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria
4. Poverty Alleviation program
5. Operation Feed the Nation
6. National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy.
7. Green Revolution.
8. Youth Initiative for Sustainable Agriculture in Nigeria, (YISA)
9. N-Power Empowerment Program
10. Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Program
11. Youth Entrepreneurs of Nigeria.
12. Youth Empowerment and Development Initiative
13. Africa Youth Empowerment Nigeria.
14. Youth Empowering People.
15. Youth Entrepreneur Support Program.
16. Diamon-Crest for Youth Education Foundation.
17. New Era Foundation.
18. Tony Elumelu Foundation.
19. Youth for Technology Foundation.
20. Foundation for Skills Development.
21. United Nation of Youth Network Nigeria.
22. International Center for Development Africans.
23. Lagos Digital Village.
24. LEAP Africa
25. Movement for Youth Actualization International

The above youth programs and policies did not see the light of the day, what I refer to as Nigerian factors rendered them useless as policies and program formulated and implemented in Nigeria are based on Elite Theory, kpletocracy and cronyism. The astronomical rate of youth unemployment, human trafficking, illegal migration, internet fraud, illiteracy,



frustrations, restiveness and increases in other criminal activities is a clear confirmation to my assertion. The National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) according to data gathered is the only program where Nigerian government is paying little attention to the youth. The NYSC is limited to certain class of people as only graduate of full time programs within 30 years of age can participate. The NYSC program has her numerous disadvantages, some youth asserted.

To benefit and be part of any youth program either from government or individual one must be nominated by the power that be and be a loyal party faithful or fraternity faithful members. The policies and program are ill implemented. It is evidently clear that over 98 percent of the Nigerian youth have not benefited anything from government, the 2 percent that benefited from government youth program are relations of those in government, party faithful and children of the ruling oligarchy.

#### **YOUTH AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN NIGERIA.**

A cursory perusal of the Federal Republic of Nigeria constitution on the section that has to do with the Youth, One will be startled and infer without equivocation that Nigerian government has no hope and future for her youths. The welfare of the youth are not captured properly in the constitution, imagine voting age 18 years and you cannot be voted for until when you are 30 years of age this is a pointer that political gladiators don't want the youth to be part of the government. Politicians want to remain and retain power forever. It took time for the bill titled, Not Too Young To Run to be pass into law, it led to peaceful demonstrations. In a way it is victory for the youth at least the age limit is reduced thus; president age qualification 40, Governor 35 years, Senators 35 years, House of representatives 30 years, state house of Assembly 25 years. The amendment of the constitution that reduced the age to five years is a welcome development for the youths but there are greater constrain for the youth to feature prominent in Nigeria political scenario and be part of government. Ugochinyere (2018) posited that "the not – too-young to –run bill is not a problem facing Nigerian youth. The major problem is the level playing field.if you don't control the army, the police and the money to bribe electoral officers at times, when you win they change figures. So the key thing is to

build independent electoral process from accreditation, voting collation and so forth. In the same line, Adeyanju (2018) called on all youths to remain focused and believed that they are the future of Nigerians. He further said that finance is a major problem facing youth participation in the next election; he maintained that considering the economic hardship it would be a herculean task for the youth to be able to sell a political party that would give them space to vie for position in the coming election. As politics in Nigeria is commercialized and monetized.....

There are other factors that hinder youth from positive political participations, for instance imagine money to pick nomination form to vie for any election position in Nigeria. How many of our youths can raised such money. President goes for 45 million naira; condition to register a political party in Nigeria is stringent and cumbersome for the youths, Independent candidacy not practice in the country. Political parties are like personal ATM card administer by few cable. The imposition of candidates by few cabalsin any elective position in all the political parties. Second term syndrome, fraternity, being a member of one secret society or the other. Lack of internal democracy within and outside the political party. All these and many more are barrier to youth positive participation in politics.

In Nigerian political scenario youths are only needed for them to cast their votes, help politicians to rig and win election at all cost, serve as their thugs, dehumanized and brutalized any opposition even if it entails silencing by fire by force they do it with easy. They are equipped with sophisticated weapon during electioneering periods. Cultisms are encouraged by political actors and gladiators. Some Big politicians are patrons and matrons to some clandestine groups. Government through her instrumentalities has succeeded in dividing the youth. After election what next? The high rate of criminalities in some state after 2019 general election is a signpost to so many things. This question has left so many youth speechless. There is a cordial relationship between the youths and politicians during election and few weeks to election date as some youths are shortlisted for one form of useless empowerment program or the other. They get peanut cash from them. Those in prison or awaiting trial are released to be used during election as stouts and thugs.. Immediately after the elections, the same politicians will either



cut off or make their relationship to be tinted with the used youths, no more picking of calls, no text, no visitation, no more throwing of cash by politicians to youths. The youth are allowed to face fate with faith. The celebration has ended the echoes are all around Gabriel Okara (1978). The realities have come to play. Realities of unemployment, illiteracy, deprivation, marginalization, poverty, aggression and frustrations which end product is perpetration of crime using what they have at hand as a tool to commit crime, frustration –aggression theory at work.

It is evident that youth committee crimes and other social vices because they are not empowered by the government of the day. There are no other options for them to make things happen and meet up in life style than to resort to dubious, diabolic and foul means to make money. An idle man is not only a devil's workshop but a mini devil incarnate. Don't pray to behold them in operation. They are more deadly than weak devil. This is what aggression and frustration can course. Frustration and anger has never cooked any good food since the beginning of the world, and it cannot be change in Nigerian situation.

A research conducted in (2018) by Institute for Peace and Strategic Studies, University of Ibadan has this to say," there is no conscious effort on the part of Nigerian government to politically empower the youths of this country. Many of the youth empowerment schemes are cleaver ruse to gag youth voice and politically disempower them. The tokenistic approach of support a handful of youths in petty trading, farming and vocational skill acquisition will not give them the political voice to engage actively in politics and occupy decision –making position either in politics or in government. Akinlaja (2016) postulated that there are more sectors where youth can be made more useful and instrumental to national development and democratic advancement in Nigeria. He observed that the role of the youth in democratic dispensation is great, that participation in democracy goes beyond politics and extends to areas as civil rights campaigns, Education Rights Movement, Health and Environmental Vanguard, Entrepreneurship, Community Development Groups and many more.

Nigerian political system has no plan for the youth to participate meaningfully and positively in politics, either for their voices to be hador be part of decision –making. The ruling oligarchy only use the youth to get political power and dump them to fatalism.

What do you expect from a person that is totally disappointed and frustrated? This will be unveilingsubsequent in preceding pages.

#### **YOUTHS REACTIONS**

Frantz (1968) Posited "that each generation must out of relative obscurity discover its mission and fulfill it or betray it. This is applicable to Nigerian youths as there positive values and importance are exchanged for negativity, their betrayal as seen in the actions of government in power and politicians cannot be overemphasized. When a man is push to the wall he will reacts violently as not all can control their impulses as a result of accumulated aggression, depression and marginalization that seem to be endemic viewing from Nigerian political history and scenario about the youths. From available data it is crystal clear like the biblical words in Daniel 5:25." MENE MENE TEKEL PARSIN". In Nigeria scenario it is apparently written anarchy and instability which has already been noticed by some political analyst, philosophers and observers with great analytical mind and power of projection. Some foreseen military coming back to power, some predicts disintegration of the country, while some herald revolution, others are saying restructurings all the above points are a front burner that Nigerian federation needs am imperative surgical plastic operations based on issues on ground if anarchy must be eschewed. The dramatic irony and pathetic situation is that government at all level are busy with electioneering propaganda and issues paying no attention to the suffering of Nigerian masses, insecurity, kidnapping, bunkering and other vicious crimes in the polity, which is as a result of abysmal and blatant failure of government to own up and live up to their fundamental categorical duties as an institution of the state to provide and cater for her citizens welfare.

The reaction of the Youth varies; it depends on individual choice as life is all about choices. Some have resolved to wait for nature to have its course as they wallow in abject poverty suffering and gnashing of teeth"smiling and suffering" as postulated by a popular Nigerian Afro Beat Musician late FelaKuti (1997) This set of youth have resolved to take any form of menial job to make ends meets, graduates among them resort to taxi driving, cyclist, cake making and newspaper vendors. In a similar case some turned to Christianity; Born -Againism been Called to the ministry of God by themselves not by God as pastors. This



accounts for high rate of immorality and sin in the church of God. Paradoxically a paradox more churches more crime in our society. Church is been run as a private commercial venture owned by General Overseer. Prayers, counseling and deliverance service are merchetilised and monetized, all quantified according to their value with prophetic messages and sermon that has to do with prosperity and material blessings of individual, undermining the cardinal point of Christianity which is based on holiness and righteousness, salvation of souls for God. Seeking first the kingdom of God and its righteousness all other thing will be added unto you ( Matthew 6:33.) is replace with seek you the kingdom of prosperity and miracles. God will help us in this nation.

Besides, some youth derived joy and pleasure in joining clandestine society, cult and other fraternity. They join secret societies as a result of frustration, deprivation and aggression to perpetrate mayhem in the society just to earn a living. In addition cultist are honored and rewarded by government and political gladiators in form of political appointments and mini empowerment program. Government has no plan and provision for the youth so the youth have decided to empower themselves negatively through robbery, political tugs, kidnapping, bunkering, militancy, human trafficking, drugs abuse, child abuse, cultism, internet fraud, bombing, suicide etc.It is an anomaly to watch government that is supposed to control crime has turned to aid and abate criminalities in our society. What happened during the general election of 2015 and 2019 elections held in Nigeria was worrisome as government used her instrumentalities of power through security apparatus to rig election to their favor. They use youths, partnered with security agencies and electoral officers as they displayed their sophisticated weapon backed up by government forces without molestation. Youths that displayed diabolic mastery and dexterity in criminality are rewarded by government and politicians through cash and are recruited into higher clandestine societies through oath taken before they get meaningful empowerment. Miscreants are empowered by government given coverage as they go away unpunished despite all their nefarious deadly bastardly acts perpetrated. When arrested the next minutes they will be released by security men based on order from above. In reaction to this unceremonious impunity in the

name of immunity in criminality more youths are motivated to join in the bad wagon of miscreants and stouts which is anchored on joining of clandestine group first. The granting of amnesty was another factor that influences the reaction of youth to patronize crime. There are no jobs, so if militancy, kidnapping of oil workers, bunkering can earn them recognition and get them a job with lucrative salary more than what a graduate takes home. What do we expect from the youth? Imagine corps members are paid #19800 at the end of the month after serious and series of duties and supervision by NYSC staff. The same federal government will pay stout and miscreants #60,000 - #80,000 for not doing anything good rather on the payroll of amnesty. This leads to endemic astronomical rate of criminalities, restiveness and other social vices in our society.

The lacuna created between a law abiding citizen and criminality, between security agencies and the judiciary leads to mismanagement of the youth, they looked at impunity and criminality as the best option to eke a living the end product is high propensity of abnormalities and incessant crime in the society.Youth cannot come up with a united voice, as a body because they are not united. Politicians and government is using divide and rule system to keep them in perpetual poverty and disunity. Politician encourages and patronizes them in their various youth's bodies with their political interest paramount over that of the youth body. The balkanization of the youth is a cog in the wheel of development of the youth. There are many youth's bodies both open and secret, in all politicians and government have their representatives, they ensure that those that are loyal to them are nominated or elected to lead. Politicians and government sponsor youth bodies and give peanuts to them to sell their conscience. In some of villages, not to mention names there are some youths that have government backing there are some that don't have. The divisions that exist within the youth bodies cannot allow them to unit and fight a common fight. Within the youth organization those that are against the government are silenced by fire by force. The youth bodies we have today are existing, on past glories of youth bodies in the pre-colonial and early colonial era. Today they are appendage and extension of government. They cannot come up to say no, to any government policies and program that is not in their favor. National Associations of Nigerian students (NANS)



Nigeria Labor Congress( NLC) are faced with same problems. When I was a baby NANS was NANS today where is NANS in the scheme of things considering all the obnoxious rules and dilapidated structure in Nigerian universities. What of NLC for how long, have been fooled and dribbled by government just to increase minimum wage to #30,000. Government is not relenting in getting things done the way they want it but youth are over relaxing selling their future for peanuts. With the system of things in Nigerian youth cannot stand with a united voice to say no in anything about the government of the day.

Government is not interested in the welfare of the youth because they look at the youth as a threat to their political career and ambitions hence youth are used and dump by political gladiators and actors. Politicians want to remain in power and politically relevant till death, empowering the youth is disempowering them. Youth serve them both positively and negatively. To empower the youth is like granting of independence to a colony. Who will serve as tugs? Who will be used to rig election? Who will be used to intimidate, molest and salience opposition? Who will be used to create trouble in the village for them to get chieftaincy tittle? Who will blow their false trumpet? Who will vote for them during, political, family and village meeting? Whom will they used to siphon money from government pause? These and many more are the reasons why politicians don't want to empower the youth. The implication of used and dumped youth is unquantifiable, youths are great asses to a nation if properly utilized harnessed, mentored and sensitized has turned to be a problem in Nigerian society. Youths are frustrated and aggrieved so they have resorted to whatever they can do to help themselves since government is not ready to help them.

#### **HOW YOUTH CAN MAKE POSITIVE IMPACT IN THE SOCIETY.**

Youth are seen as the foundation and future of any nation. Just as a child is the father of the man it is paradoxical but its perfect truism is made perfect in reality in Nigeria when compared to other developed nations that have developed their youths. The rate of crime and criminalities in such developed nations cannot be compared to what is functional in third world countries. Youth in the entire world has made tremendous impact in all area of human endeavors, Nigerian youth inclusive. The only problem in Nigeria is that the enabling environment is not

provided for the youth to explore and exploit all their positive potentialities. In France Emmanuel Macrou is the president 39 years, Sabastine Kurz 31 years as Austra Chancellor, other youths that has made impact and occupied position includes, Wangchuk Jigmekhesar born 21<sup>st</sup> February, 1980 he is the king of Bhutan, Emil Dimitriev born on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 1979, he is the prime minister of Mecedonia. Ali al Sammad born 1<sup>st</sup> January,1979,he is the president of the Supreme Political Council of Yemen.Tamin bin Hamad Al Than born 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 1980 he is the Emire of Qater.Kim Jong Un born 8<sup>th</sup> January 1985 he is the supreme leader of North Korea. The list will not be complete if I don't mention Nigeria youths that has also distinguished themselves despite the bad Nigerian political and economic climate that is completely against the youths. Chimamanda Adiche acclaimed African writer and in entrepreneurship and Sijibomi Ogundele. The brilliant performance of Nigeria youths in sports /games and in academic competition at the international scene is encouraging. For any person or groups of persons to say that Nigerian youth are lazy I will not kowtow to that statement from available data and statistics Nigerian youth are making waves in all area of human engagement apart from the political arena that are dominated by Septuagenarians, Octogenarians and Nonagenarians, despite the hostile nature of the Nigerian environment.

Ban Ki Moon (2015) united Nation Secretary Generalsaid" We are addressing youth today because youth have placed themselves on top of the agenda. This statement is practicable in countries with political culture and will for youth development and empowerment. Nations with blue print for youth welfare and a master plan for capacity building for the youth, such nations like United Kingdom, USA, Canada, India, France. Unlike Nigeria where youth are left to fatalism, their future mortgage by the few ruling political cable that have exercise control of the political arena from independence till date. Change is sacrosanct one day we believing that things will change for better for the youth.

Making positive impact on the society is purely on individual although the society has a very dominate role to play. The first thing is dedication and determination with total commitment to hard work and obedience to instruction from constituted



authority and elders coupled with enabling environment are *sin qua non* for positive impact in the society.

United Nation Development Program (UNDP 2015) made the following recommendations on how on ways youth can make an impact in the society positively.

1. Youth should know their fundamental human rights. Right to vote and be voted for, right from marginalization and false labor, slavery, trafficking, right of security and enjoyment of social amenities as provided by the government.
2. Youth should make learning and studying their habits. Youth are advised to learn things within their immediate and outside their environment. Learning an issue will help in creating and proffering solution to problems
3. Speak out positively and criticize constructively, through the social media and U-report, this should be done with care and caution.
4. Networking: This has to do with reaching out to other youths with same ideology and mind. Learning about their efforts and initiatives .it will help you to build yourself the more.
5. Speak positive words: There is need for youth to educate and sensitize others about any latest development in the society. For instance during electioneering process talk to other people about voting rights and behaviors.
6. Join online campaign: There are many issues that need global attention and discussion. They are all online youths are advised to join and build themselves up .This will enable the youth to carry out correspondence that match the issue.
7. Host a youth summit
8. Use your creativity
9. Join or create a youth organization.
10. Be an inspirator, Believe in yourself and follow your passion.
11. Renounce cultism and embrace peace.
12. Positive attitudinal change

In addition to the above Okwechime (2017) postulate that youth program should strive to pursue the following broad spectrum of objectives.

- a. Youth development and empowerment.
- b. Youth engagement in the process
- c. Academic enrichment and mentoring through after school program
- d. Making youth program more accessible and preventing youth delinquency and substance abuse.
- e. Establish a task force to study the effect of mentoring youth in the juvenile justice system.
- f. After school practical experiments produce comprehensive dropout prevention and recovery program.
- g. Create a mechanism to find delinquency prevention and intervention.
- h. Youths organizations, particularly those that are community based and provide substantial benefit to them.
- i. Establish a health marking relationship and empower youth in policy –making.
- j. Create a youth development fund to generate grant to community based youth program that focused on youth development.
- k. Youth council should offer advice on matters of policy and include young people indecision making.
- l. Engage youth in the civic and political process.
- m. Create a commission to study the scope and quality of citizenship education.
- n. Support creative and aggressive implementation of activities to get the young people involve in the electoral process.
- o. Create an after school committee to identify best practices.
- p. Create a pilot program to involve students and youths in simulated election –like the mock and moot trial of law of faculties at universities.

Okwechime( 2017) submitted that ” youth activism when applied positively will bring positive results, When associated with violence, it points to idle hands being provided with the wrong occupation. In line with his thesis there will be increase in level of crime and criminality amongst the youth. From the frustration aggression theory the concomitant effect is a colossal tsunamic rate in criminalities and insecurity in the society.



### **HOPE FOR THE YOUTH**

I join my voice with the voice of some political philosophers to say that there is still for the youth, there is always light at the end of the tunnel. Youth should reorganized themselves and fill up the lacuna created by the political elites in galvanizing and synergizing their efforts together to reposition Nigerian. Youth in Egypt, Greece and other nations did it by unanimously saying no to draconian obnoxious programme and policies. The recommendations made here if religiously followed the youth will have a place and a better nation tomorrow.

### **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

This paper analyzed the Nigerian government and youth, problems faced by the youth and why there is high rate of crime in Nigeria. The relationship between frustrations and aggressions, and how it snowballs to criminalities was established. The study explained and made recommendation on how youths can make positive impact in the society. The reasons for low youth restiveness and criminality in developed nations and reasons for astronomical growth of crimes in third world countries like Nigeria were discussed. Reasons Why Nigerian government and politicians are not ready to empower the youth and the rational why youth cannot unite and fight for a common destiny were all discussed.

I wish to make the following the following recommendations;

1. What we have today as ministry of Youths Development should be restructured with policies and program for the youth on annual bases not only is game and sport are youths known for in this country and the world at large. Nigerian ministry of Youth Development is seen as a paper tiger a leeway to siphon our national wealth by few political cabals in collaboration with few civil servants with no scintilla of useful youth empowerment program or initiatives that is functional and beneficial to Nigerian youth.
2. Let there be a strong dynamic constitutional provision and institutional framework for youth welfare, empowerment and provision for the unemployed welfare as operational in USA, Canada, Qauter in the above mentioned nations youth are entitled to a lot of things constitutionally and the unemployed are paid monthly and taken care of by government.

3. The relationship between frustration and crime was established so government and politicians should come up with practical youth policies and programs that will engage the youth. Meaningfully projects that will engage the youth an idle person is a mini devil not only his workshop
4. Ministry of youth in Nigerian is a dead body that lacks structure and standard to harness the positive potentialities of the youth. Let Nigerian government come up with a youth commission setting in motions plans and program for the youth from day one to at 35 years.
5. Government should make education free from primary to university. Besides vocational and technical courses should be encouraged. Technical schools should be built and qualified teachers with equipment should be provided for students to make teaching and learning easy. This will help to reduced unemployment. A sound curriculum anchored on vocational and technical education be introduced.
6. Political parties' registration should be made less cumbersome and expensive, the introduction of independent candidates for election will help the youth to showcase their leadership skill and qualities.
7. Electoral law should be reviewed those sections that hinders the youth from participating actively in politics be removed. Any person that can vote for another person can also be voted for this system should be introduced.
8. Let there be a retiring age for politics it is better to have living politicians in power than to have those that are more than 70 years old even with their football age. In civil service there is retirement age, in football there is age limit in politics let there be age limit too.
9. Politics should be made less lucrative by reducing the jumbo salaries they are paid. When this is done the issue of do or die to get political power will be reduced.
10. Education, empowerment, employment, counseling and good mentorship of the youth will be a desideratum to reduce crime.



11. Let there be a level playground for everybody in the political arena. Electoral officers and security agencies should act and serve as umpire.
12. Reorientation and sensitization of the youth through free workshop and seminar will help to educate the youth.
13. Hard working youth should be rewarded instead of rewarding militant, cultist, miscreants by government. Youth found culpable of any offense should be made to face culpability.
14. Amnesty program as adopted by the federal government had serious negative consequences on the youth. The program should be abolished or restructured to be made to focus on youth empowerment and capacity building.
15. Youth organizations should be free from interference and manipulations by politicians and government.
16. Religious leaders should teach more of morality, and go into youth capacity building and empowerment program. This will help to engage the youth.
17. Government should come up with a political will to fight injustice against the youth and stop providing cover for miscreants, cultist and other offenders.
18. Nigerian government should borrow youth program and policies from developed nations of the world namely that of USA, Canada and France.
19. Government should work hand in hand with our traditional rulers positively as regards governance at all level. Government interference in traditional political institution of some communities has help to fuel crises in so many communities. Youths are used during those crises. Some traditional ruler's hands are not clean as they fraternize with one cult group or the other leading to endemic cult class and criminalities in their domain. Traditional rulers should be neutral and apolitical in discharging. Politicians and government should not sponsor or fan any cult group.

I have no doubt in my mind that if the above recommendations are taken and implemented Nigeria will move to next level with joy and gladness with a resourceful

useful and enterprising youths .crime and criminalities will be gradually reduced to the barest minimum.

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