

## ISSUES AND POLITICS OF RESTRUCTURING WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL QUESTION IN NIGERIA

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### ABSTRACT

*In an attempt to study issues and politics of restructuring in Nigeria, this paper explores political issues in the agitations and calls for restructuring in Nigeria. Issues related to the politics of restructuring in Nigeria are identified as they are influenced by many factors and interests, with special reflections on the national question and its relation to the agitations of restructuring, background history of the agitation history in colonial politics as well, politics after independence, geography, heterogeneity and politics of the Nigerian state. Conceptual analysis is used in the paper, where by the researcher observed and analyzed secondary data collected from variety of sources base on the premise of David Easton's System Theory. Findings from the paper reveals that there are severally identified issues, which are critical to and must be squarely addressed in order to arrive at a desired and mutually accepted stand on Nigeria's wellbeing regarding the politics of restructuring in Nigeria. Also, to sustained unity and stability of the Nigerian state some issues that are linked to the name of restructuring must be sought out and are presented in the paper by looking at elites' interest among other things that are however, shaped and dominated the restructuring agitations. On the other hand, citizens' laissez-faire attitude towards their general well-being rendered the agitation partially dormant, which the paper recommends should be addressed by incorporating the masses into proper general political participation. As the study is premised within the context of national question in Nigeria that have socio-economic, political and ethno-religious realities. Therefore, the study presented outline recommendations for the Nigerian policy makers, politicians, citizens and other stakeholders at whole.*

**Keywords:** *Restructuring, agitations, laissez-faire, national question, heterogeneity*

### INTRODUCTION

Restructuring is a complex and multifaceted issue that requires a careful consideration in order to find a resolution that is equitable, sustainable, and acceptable to all concerned. It can also have significant implications for the stability, prosperity, and development of a state or region. Nigeria, according to Orewa (1997), is a calabash floating on a lake and although it may not sink, it has no definite direction or destination. Orewa (1997), was characteristically referring to the structure of the country which he believed has be to be restructured to be able to take and move towards a developmental direction. In Nigeria, the issue of restructuring has been a contentious political issue of national question among others for many years. The country is home to over 200 million people and is characterized by a diverse array of ethnic, cultural, and religious groups, each with its own unique history and set of political interests (Najakku, 2016). The issue of national question to unify the general population regardless of their differences in the struggle for a progressive social system is often a key factor in determining the stability and prosperity of a nation as well the development of its structures both socially, economical and politically. In many cases, when the structure is considered not balanced the national question can lead to conflicts and tensions, as different groups compete for power, resources, and recognition. In other cases, it can lead to constructive and peaceful forms of diversity and pluralism, where different groups are able to coexist and cooperate for the benefit of the nation as a whole when major national structures are considered balanced. National question is especially important in multi-ethnic or multinational states, where different groups have distinct histories, cultures, and political aspirations. It can also be relevant in situations of decolonization or post-conflict reconstruction, where new states are being established and old identities and allegiances are being re-negotiated.

The issues and trends surrounding national question and the politics of restructuring have been messy, characterized by uncertainty, conflicts, controversy, compromise, and sacrifice. There is a general feeling of inferiority and superiority that is creating complex rift among the components of the Nigerian federation where some regard others as parasites, and others as betrayers. Poverty, increased manipulation of religion and ethnicity, inability to withstand election defeat, manifesting dissatisfaction with leadership quality, and others have been further fueling the agitations and calls for the restructuring (Osman, Othman, and Mohammed, 2019). Resistance to the unity and cohesion of Nigeria has also dominated the Nigerian political scene over national question and restructuring, devolution of powers, true federalism, among others. For long, the Nigerian entity has been undergoing one critical socio-economic and political trial or the other that rises within the context of national question and restructuring.

Politics of restructuring is the political process of changing the existing administrative or constitutional framework of a state or region. This can include reforms aimed at improving the efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of government institutions, as well as changes to the distribution of power and resources among different regions, ethnic groups, or political actors. In some cases, restructuring may be driven by a desire to address long-standing political or economic inequalities, or to respond to changing demographic, economic, or technological conditions. In other cases, it may be driven by more immediate political or ideological considerations, such as a desire to centralize power, to address perceived security threats, or to resolve ethnic or nationalist tensions.

Regardless of the motivations behind restructuring, the process can be highly politically charged, as it can affect the distribution of power and resources, and challenge established political and economic interests. In some cases, the politics of restructuring can lead to conflict, as different groups or regions compete for power and influence. In other cases, it can lead to constructive and inclusive forms of dialogue and cooperation, where different groups are able to negotiate and agree on a way forward.

Since pre-independence, political issues in Nigeria includes calls, agitations, and clamor for constitutional reviews, amendments, conferences, national question, restructuring, among others. The political atmosphere also remains heated from time to time with military interventions and transitions, elections, opposition parties, marginalized allegations, elitist interests in power and resources, ethnic and religious groups, among others. Thus, Amuwo, Agbale, Suberu and Heralut (2003), admit that Nigeria's political development has been dislocated and disrupted and hence, the needs for both structural and institutional coherence.

Currently, Nigeria operates as a highly centralized state, with a large proportion of resources and decision-making power concentrated in the hands of the federal government (Saylor, 2016). Many people in Nigeria's different regions believe that this centralization of power has contributed to widespread corruption and inefficiency, and that restructuring is necessary in order to address these problems and ensure greater fairness and equity. One of the key issues driving the debate on restructuring in Nigeria is the question of how to distribute political power and resources more fairly among the country's different regions and ethnic groups. Another important issue in the politics of restructuring in Nigeria is the question of how to address ethnic and sectarian tensions that exist in different parts of the country (Hislope and Mughan, 2012). Many of these tensions are rooted in historical injustices, such as the unequal distribution of resources and opportunities, and the marginalization of certain ethnic and religious groups. Some proponents of restructuring believe that by devolving more power to Nigeria's different regions, it will be possible to address these tensions and create a more inclusive and harmonious society.

As the politics of restructuring in Nigeria is complex and multifaceted, and involve a wide range of actors, including political parties, ethnic and religious groups, civil society organizations, and the international community. Some groups, such as political parties and ethnic organizations, are actively advocating for restructuring and are seeking to build political coalitions to support their cause (Yaqub, 2016). Other groups, however, are opposed to restructuring, either because they believe it would undermine

the unity of the country, or because they believe it would threaten their own political or economic interests. Virtually every part of Nigeria is now responding to the politics of restructuring. This restructuring is, however, enveloped in fear, anxiety, hope, despair and desperation, and the elitist interests in continuous access to power and resources. The Northern Region of Nigeria, which had in the past resisted virtually all these calls/agitations for the restructuring is submitting to same, but still with mixed feelings and emotion.

This paper explored the issues and politics of restructuring in Nigeria within the context of national question. The paper explored those issues, that form the bedrock of restructuring agitation and the need for balance, stemming from colonial antecedents, and the determinants upon which Nigeria's future rely on in relation to attainment of unity, cohesion and stability among the component parts that make up the Nigerian state.

### **Background of Restructuring Politics in Nigeria**

Dealing with the issue of restructuring has been complex and sensitive in Nigeria, action and reactions that has to do with issues and politics of restructuring vary from one part of Nigeria to the others. It transcends across ethnicities, religions, geo-politics, among others, the issue is persistent since the amalgamation, colonial and post-independence period as well (Momoh and Adejumobi, 2017). While some of the issues in politics of restructuring are not new, for they have been there since the pre-independence era, manifesting in different forms and dimensions. It can be seen that reasons for the restructuring agitation is fueled by the structural administrative set up and politically administrative jurisdiction areas of Nigeria at independence. For example, the administration of the country. The British divided Nigeria into three regions. Although the regions were semi-autonomous there was a central government over them. The regions however were unequal. The Northern region alone was larger than the Eastern and Western regions combined. According to Nwabueze (1950), there could be no other explanations, for the British to alter the boundaries of the north, and grant the northerners larger portion of administration than that, it was a deliberate design to provide Northern domination upon the country which need to be readdress. The British from the colonial era are accused of fostering regionalism in and segregating Nigeria rather than fostering nationalism and unity.

Even though there were railway roads, posts and telegraphs, a common currency, a lingua franca (English), across the country after the amalgamation, all these were done to ease colonial administration and consequently facilitate a more effective exploitation of the colony rather than an attempt to solidified the structure of the country to work as a consolidated political system. According to Akinbi (1999). Issues of restructuring agitation and the need for balance in Nigeria can be seen to have a colonial base. The British official position up to independence was to foster Native Authorities instead of the Nigerian nation. This position was aggressively pursued under the Indirect Rule System of administration which itself thrived in Divide and Rule (Boahen, 1966).

According to Akinbi (1999) The Nigerian state up to independence was compounded by the fact that the colonial power neither prepared the people for the eventual political system that was handed over to them nor laid a solid political structural base upon which that system or any other one for that matter could successfully thrive upon. The aftermath was instability and chaos which eventually climaxed in a civil war that was centered on the issue of secession. Indeed, given the structure of the society handed over at independence, instability in Nigeria was definitely inescapable. In spite of the fact that various factors contributed to the current predicament of Nigeria, it is our belief that the problem with the structure of the country rooted in colonialism is another factor. The history of the struggle for restructuring of the Nigerian political structure shows that it is a long practice that has bred conflicts and formation of conflict groups within the Nigerian society.

In the recent, the atmosphere of Nigerian public political discourse is presently clouded with calls, agitations, and clamors for restructuring. In such calls and agitations there are fears, anxiety, hope, optimism, pessimism, threats, and uncertainties, among others.

Many governments irrespective of ethno-religious identity of the leadership, resisted and or manipulated such calls and agitations for restructuring largely due to the issue of national questions and fear of the known and unknown consequences, including the possible disintegration of the Nigerian state. While some of the proponents of the restructuring maintain that anyone who does not benefit from the state has the right to question being part of its unity (Ojukwu, 1989). The elites on the other hand, especially who lost out in the political merchandise, keep pressurizing for the restructuring, other elites use it as a means to secure political relevance and accommodation in the political space, circle and access to the state power and resources (Adetunberu and Bello, 2018). The restructuring shouts is echoing in the voice of many Nigerians. It has trended for decades and seems to be an intergenerational topical issue in Nigeria. The persistent call for restructuring is not only the affair of the elite who lost out in power contest but it takes numerous dimensions, shape and form, particularly outstanding, is in the dimension of politics. It is no surprise though, because the philosophy behind the existence of every state and the control of its resources bothers on politics. Over the years and in recent times, many scholars, elites and average Nigerians have been on an outcry for restructuring.

There was persistent threats to the cohesion, national question and further integration and unity of Nigerian with clear signs of not only social and political rift, but escalation of insecurities, conflicts over revenue allocation and resource control, cattle rustling, kidnapping, armed banditry, attacks on oil facilities and installations, bitter politics of ethno-religious and regional identities, ethno-religious intolerances, poverty, conspired and orchestrated attacks, unemployment, socio-economic and infrastructural deteriorations and corruption. These have altogether also re-engineered and fueled the disaffection and partly fueled the calls, restructuring, in different names and dimensions (Oyadiran and Toyin, 2015). With those critical issues and problems, Bello (2018), notes that the Nigerian state is on a “keg of gunpowder” and needs to do some things to arrest the situation and prevent the country from collapse. Orewa (1997), contends that Nigeria is a calabash floating on a lake and although it may not sink it has no definite direction or destination.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The study postulate on the basis of system theory by Easton (1957), who conceived that all political system integrate activities through which social policy is formulated and executed, that is, the political system is always in a policy making process. System theory is suitable for studying a heterogeneous state system, federation and or a complex setting, society, or set up where both the political system and its sub-systems are inter-dependent on each other in terms of input, output and functions, and what affects one automatically affects the other (Kirchmair, 2017). In systems theory, there are interactions, connectivity, and systematic processing of demands, input and output as policies. Nigeria is heterogeneous since colonialism, it's a making that comprises relatively independent, but interconnected and inter-dependent parts and societies who altogether make up the state and the federation with inter-connectivity, environment, communication, transport, economy, religion, etc., all these are parts of operationalization of systems theory (Baraldi and Corsi, 2017).

Crawford (1993), contends that, the factors of ethnicity, religion, region, culture, etc., all influence and shape the Nigerian system. Therefore, issues and politics of restructuring within the context of national question in Nigeria is linked to a systemic structure and its study can be properly explored and analyzed as well best understood when its heterogeneities are taken into account in relation to the systematic formation of the state and its politics. The systems theory here happens to be relevant because of Nigeria being a whole that consist of sub-systems structures. Restructuring the Nigerian system in this sense is reflection of an event in the whole system and its sub-systems that are relatively interdependent on one another, an adjustment in one sub-systems affects or alters the whole system. The issues and politics of restructuring in Nigeria, therefore entails politics of adjustments, repositioning, and realignment. The heterogeneous constituents of the country that coexist on the other hand also reflect the context of national question, this in totality has an overall effect on the Nigerian state system.

### **Main Issues of Restructuring in Nigeria**

Since pre-independence, Nigeria is faced with a lot of challenges being a whole country with strong ideals of national question. The amalgamation of 1914 that fused the northern and southern protectorate making up Nigeria is not voluntary and is perceived as very incompatible by many. Accordingly, Kirk-Greene and Rimmer (1981), mentioned such challenges as elites and the masses, North South dichotomy, assumed socialism and unitarist, Islam and Christianity. All of these are characterizations that threatened the formation of the workings of the political structure of the country from the onset. It's part of history how different parts of the country struggle for more inclusion in representation at the colonial government to avoid being dominated by other parts. Osman, Othman and Mohammed (2019), believed that the historical political occurrences in Nigeria since pre-independence set Nigeria on a political trail that will inevitably involve politics of restructuring. Baba and Aeyinghe (2017), contends that Nigerians unity is faced with multi-dimensioned threats as calls for and attempts to break away and secession, insurgency, farmers conflict, cattle rustling, armed banditry, attacks on oil installations, religious intolerance, politics of ethnicity, religion and identity, unemployment and poverty among others. Osman, Othman and Mohammed (2019) opined that, it does not mean Nigeria will automatically continue and remain, to miraculously survive the problems in future as it would be a political and irrational miscalculation to over-stretch its luck. Further suggesting for more thorough looking at the issue of restructuring and implementing the needful.

Many issues have characterized, dominated and affected the Nigerian state, permeating questions of restructuring. The recurrences continue to determine and undermine the unity, progress and prosperity of the Nigerian state and issues of national question as well. Thus, posing more questions than answers on the possibility of sustaining the structure in which the Nigerian state on. Thus the calls for restructuring, national conference, national question, reforms, constitutional amendments and reverting to true federalism, among others, which are all disguised, masked or labelled with different names. Mohammed, Aisha and Saidu (2018) believed that, it could be confidently argued that no state in the world with such heterogeneities as Nigeria and undergoing these cumulative trials, has survived secession, collapse failure or disintegration. There are common but critical and sensitive issues on which the politics of restructuring in Nigeria is centered on, with relevance to the issue of national question, these issues must be thoroughly look at to achieve a positive meaningful end. The paper therefore, explored these issues as follows:

#### **1. Elite Interests in Power and Resources**

Just as it is in most political settings and structure, the helm of politics in Nigeria is built and influenced largely by the elites. Draper and Ramsay (2008), contends that Nigerian elites build their networks on patron-client pyramids which ensure both consolidation and transfer of powers from them to their cronies, loyalists and cynics, who carry out the rule on their behalf or at least in servitude to their interests. The patron-client relation according to Wilson (1996), is the relation of power sharing agreement between persons of unequal wealth, status, prestige and influence with dependence for patronage and reward with state power, support, resources and influences. According to Adetunberu and Bello (2018), the politics of restructuring in Nigeria is partially influenced by the elites, who may have lost in a power contest or change. They sometimes fueled the agitation in form of raising the issue for restructuring when no desirable political offer is made to such elites upon transition from one government to another. Baba and Aeyinghe (2017), conclude that: Politics of restructuring in Nigeria is dishonest in manner and orientation. The calls for negotiations on the terms of national unity are dishonesty-driven. The opposition to negotiation or to call for restructuring is also dishonest. The greater part of the dishonesty is located at the level of the elite. It is precisely the problem of dishonesty that largely informs the agitation for restructuring of the country.

#### **2. Trepidation of Marginalization or Domination**

Another critical issue in the politics of restructuring in Nigeria is the imbalances and fear of marginalization or domination. Farayibi (2017), opined that these have occupied the political thought and atmosphere of all the regions and discourse of restructuring in Nigeria. Since pre-independence fear of domination and marginalization resulted in mutual suspicion among Nigerians. The imbalances of the pre-colonial politics and representation in colonial government. The educational inequality that persisted up to date. The primacy of the north in terms of geography and population. Culminated among others fear that restructuring. It is clear that there are imbalances, marginalization and domination. But this is prompted by the fact that all

over country, all are marginalized or dominated by others in one way or the other. But the degree of the domination and marginalization varies from one area, and perspective to the other (Itumo, 2017). According to Oyadiran and Toyin (2015), despite the afterwards developments, and with the inception of Federal Character Principle, there still exist imbalances which are more and relatively tilted towards one region against the others in different perspectives.

### **3. Resource Control and Revenue Allocation**

Another issues of importance that was of a great importance in the discourse and clamor, calls, agitations, and controversy over restructuring in Nigeria center on resource control and revenue allocation. Henry (2007), reflects this situation explaining that the age-long political-economy questions of authoritative allocation of values who gets what, when and how are more pronounced in the process of revenue allocation between and among components of a government, which is called fiscal federalism or the granting funds by one government to the others for the purpose of attaining some specific policy goals.

The main idea behind fiscal federalism is to grants aid from the central government in order to supplement the local spending for the national purposes, provision of minimum, uniform services and compensate the citizens in the other areas whose spending and services are beneficial to citizens from the other parts of the federation such as water supply, education and health care (Shafritz, Russel, and Borick, 2007). This setting greatly concentrates the resource control and allocation of revenue sharing formula in favor of the federal or central government and largely make the other government highly dependent on the central government. Osman, Othman and Mohammed (2019), contend that Resource control and allocation is therefore, a critical issue in every meaningful restructuring discourse of Nigeria for it forms the bedrock of the politics and economy as well determines the regional, inter-governmental, political and socio-societal settings and relations among the component parts of the citizenry and elites.

### **4. Contest About Form of Government**

At the center of the politics of restructuring in Nigeria is the issue of what system of government will be more feasible and carry along with its heterogeneous nature that provide balance and smooth implementation. The Nigerian state witnessed the advantages and disadvantages of both the parliamentary and presidential system of government. The country is caught up in the discourse of restructuring and the discourse largely concentrate between the two options of Presidential and parliamentary systems of governments which were imported and imposed in Nigeria in which the Nigerian state suffer largely by both of misconception and poor operation of the systems (Ejiofor, 1981). The dilemma centers on which systems to adopt upon restructuring that will be feasible and provide a workable solution that will be a generally accepted system by the heterogeneous Nigerian set up.

### **5. Structure of the Government Authority**

Also, another issue that relates to the politics of restructuring in Nigeria is on the discourse of how the arrangements of governmental authority will be set or restructure which could fit into the Nigerian heterogeneity. According to Babalola (2015), the questions of the efficacy and continuity of the system and structures of the federation have remained un-resolved questions, including the number of levels or tiers, their powers, inter-governmental relations and effective harmony and coordination of functions and powers. The Nigerian federalism is one that has three constitutionally created levels of government, federal state and local government. But practically two levels of government, federal and state as the local government is submerged into the state government. The federating constitution created the local government as the independent third tier of government but handed over the creation, management and control of the local government to the state government. This has been reason for the functional incompetence of local government. Thus, the local government is dependent and autonomous.

Similarly, the state government which has been attributed with practical independence and autonomy has also been seen as being functionally incompetent. Because the federal government can cease or held allocation of the state government, they are similarly, subject to the dictates of the federal government. This practice has right from the time of its practice tends to make the local, state and federal government inefficient. It also serves as a befitting reason to restructure the Nigerian federalist political structure as it will quench the fire of intergovernmental conflict ignited by the above problems of Nigerian federalism and

facilitate functional competence and intergovernmental harmony between and among the levels of government in existence in Nigeria

### **6. Maintenance of Police**

The issue of maintaining arm policing also stand a partly position in the politics of restructuring in Nigeria. The maintenance or establishing the federal, regional and or state local police is also critical to the restructuring of Nigeria (Agbaeze and Ukpere, 2014). Over the years, many states, especially from the southern part of Nigeria have been clamoring for the establishment of states police machineries in the name of combating crime. The federal government, however, having been vested with the powers to establish and maintain the Nigeria Police Force, has resisted such clamors for not only going against the subsisting constitutional provisions of Nigeria, but also the possibility of the states turning such to ethno-religious militias and for other particularistic interest (Bakare, Murana and Aliu, 2018). The dominant political issue tied in calling for restructuring the police in Nigeria is due to uprising of insecurity, terrorism and the spree killings in different part of the country. Some of the advocates of restructuring contends that police operation in Nigeria is a negation to the federal principles which have not been able to protect the citizens lives and properties due to large size of the country.

The basic argument for the state police, according to Odoshimokhe (2017), is to make the police servicing more effective and efficient and closer to the policing community who understand their languages, geographical terrain and security challenges of the policing community. Furthermore, as insiders, they will work assiduously with the serving community for effective policing within their constitutional parameter. The continued agitations on the issue of state police have become a bone of contention in the polity with many commentators calling for it considering the dynamics of society and what is happening in Nigeria polity today given the raise of insurgency in the system. Today, Nigeria legally operates federal system in which power is constitutionally divided between the central and federating units, but with centralized policing system in functions and structure to defend the state constitution of the federation. The outcry by the agitators of state police system is to aid the practice of true federalism like other federating states such as the United States of America where Nigeria copies the model from (Fanran, 2018). Similarly, on the other hand, the call for the creation of state police has continued receiving criticismgaining more weight and relevance as an intense issue of politics in the restructuring agenda. Some Nigerian citizens and many of the northern governors have championed the criticism. The former president Goodluck Jonathan was quoted to have said that the idea of state police is theoretically good for the country, but giving the political environment in the country, it could be abused according to Nwogwugwu and Kupoluyi, (2015). Today in Nigeria, politicians and political control of the police has impacted negatively in the operation of police force Since from the immediate post-independence experience with Native Authority Police established for example in Northern Region, the Police were instruments of reactionary local suppression. Anyone who disagreed with those in control of the police could be banished in the land. Opposition political parties found it extremely difficult to operate. Permits, for holding political rallies were denied. The police became synonymous with the state and vice versa. Individual liberties and rights were trampled upon. All forms of trumped up charges were brought against individuals for no other reason but for belonging to different political parties. It can be argued that not much has changed since the demise of the defunct native police. the establishment of state police will only amount to mere reputation. That will provide an arena where state and local authorities will have accrued power to create a local ethnic or tribal force that will be wreaking havoc on opponents and those out of interests freely. The revelation members of the Boko Haram have sponsors among prominent politicians as accused by former President Goodluck Jonathan is an issue of concern with regard to this.

Also, almost all the federating state are depending on allocation from the federal account to run financial affairs of the state. The state is having much difficulty to meet even basic expenditure, adding policing responsibilities on the state is like an overkill on the state and an inevitable disaster of extortion and marauding to gain revenue for conducting basic activities.

### **7. Citizens nonchalant and laissez-faire Attitude**

The politics of restructuring in Nigeria is also faced with laissez-faire and nonchalant attitude that inhibit its sphere to the extent that much thought and consideration is not giving to the issue by policy maker

and administrators because of how minimal the citizens contribute or show interest for either the maintenance of the current structure or restructuring to another setting. This is another inhibitor of political restructuring in Nigeria. The Nigerian citizens as a result of fear of suppression, ignorance, corrupt mindset, exhibits lack lustrous and carefree attitude towards the struggle for political restructuring of the Nigerian federalism. This attitudinal deficiency is one of projectile factors that have necessitated the un-realization of the restructuring of the political structure of the Nigerian State.

#### **Methodology**

Conceptual analysis is used in the study by the researcher where by researcher observed and analyze data looking at background, history, foundation and politics of Nigeria. Secondary sources of data are used to collect from historical documentation, books, various making and re-making of policies and programs.

#### **Conclusion**

Restructuring is an issue that requires a careful consideration. Collective effort towards restructuring the Nigeria present political structure will make Nigeria a better because clearly the present structure is not working and cannot be further over stretched. A restructuring model that will make the country work were needless tensions and conflicts are minimal and where the sub-national government are not reduced to mere dependents. Thus, to realize a more prosperous Nigeria, urgent measures should be taken in the execution of the recommendations of this paper so as to change the status quo to one that will work for the betterment of the country.

#### **Recommendations**

Having identified some critical issues in the politics of restructuring in Nigeria. The political issues identified by this study are to be addressed, for workable solution and better workings to the issues of national question, sustained unity, stability and integration. As the issues of political restructuring in Nigeria is one that needs a careful consideration this paper recommends the following:

1. Restructuring should be embraced by Nigerians as it has been seen as a way to a more workable structure and achieve national unity.
2. There is an urgent need to make a wide informative awareness to the entire citizens of Nigeria irrespective of tribe, region, or origin about value re-orientation of restructuring. Nigerians should cultivate the habit of harnessing unity in their diversities and advantage of politically restructuring the country into an equal opportunity society. This will also make them to change their laissez-faire attitude and embark on a nationalistic call for restructuring without fear of suppression.
3. There should be meritocratic adherence to the principles of federal character of the country and not using it as an instrument of favoritism for any region of the country.
4. The state governments of the country should have ultimate right to exploit and utilize the resources within their territorial domain and remit taxes to the federal government.
5. Nigeria government should adopt state policing, a system where by every state in the country will be authorized to form their police and local vigilante should be recognized within various communities to beef up the security in every community.
6. Nigeria elections are often marred by irregularities and violence, which undermine the credibility of the democratic process. Implementing electoral reforms that ensure transparency, fairness, and accountability could help promote confidence in the electoral process.
7. Nigeria constitution needs to be revised to reflect the realities of modern Nigerian society. This could include amending the provisions for revenue sharing, power allocation, and other critical issues through constitutional reforms.

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