

**ADMINISTRATIVE CONJUNCTION AND SOUTH
WESTERN 'REGIONAL' INTEGRATION IN NIGERIA: A PROGNOSIS**

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Abstract

Regional integration arrangement anywhere in the world is generally perceived to be vehicles for overcoming the constraint of small economic sizes of nations. This study is a critical analysis of regional economic integration particularly of the South West Region of Nigeria. The paper discussed among other things the historical antecedent of the South West Region, the birth of DAWN commission and its goals and objectives. The possible benefits the South West region could derive from such integration which include boosting the agricultural sector, creation of growth poles, effective governance, opportunity to leverage on the region's resources, etc are x-rayed. The paper recommended first, collaborative works agency within DAWN that would see to the construction and rehabilitation of roads that link villages, towns and cities in the region together rather than waiting for the federal government to construct her roads. Second, the running of most of her agro-allied investments as business models that would yield returns on their finances which invariably would enable the region create jobs, create wealth and other critical infrastructures in areas of education and health which are twin development indices. Third is the introduction of agriculture as a matter of policy in all public schools from primary to tertiary levels including practicals in specific areas of crop production and animal husbandry, etc. the South West of Nigeria by all these is fully propelled into an era of unprecedented prosperity.

Keywords: Economic Cooperation, Political Integration, Regional Development, Regional Integration

Introduction

All over the world, regional integration has gained currency. Nations are collaborating, so are states within federations in order to derive maximum benefits from the power of synergy and economies of scale (Opeyemi,2014). Studies around the world have shown that in the most advanced nations, economic development started through basic community's integration programs that allowed them to garner resources and ideas for common purposes (Abitogun, 2014). In the course of nation building, the integration of both the political and economic structures always takes the centre stage in planning

towards sustainable development. This forms the bedrock for total emancipation of the entire citizenry from unemployment and poverty.

Regional integration in Nigeria is about improving the economy of the federation through regional contributions, improving the standard of living of the people by cooperation among the states (Opeyemi, 2014). Thus, integration is simply a continuous breakdown of all barriers within a defined boundary for articulated and accelerated economic development of the entity. Some of these barriers are notably political in nature, cultural, values, religion, needs and economy (Abitogun, 2014). However, in South Western Region, the most visible barrier we can notice is political.

It is upon this background that the South-west of Nigeria in 2011 started a process to integrate and re-enact the development witnessed in the Western Region of the pre-independence and immediate post independence era (Opeyemi, 2014).

It is important to state here that in the Western Region, high level of suburbanization and state creation have deeply eroded the capacity of the states to deal with their problems individually. These problems include but not limited to unemployment; crime, little or no public transportation, chronic underdevelopment, inadequate affordable housing, air and water pollution, etc. Dealing with these problems would require the creation of a central administration that is based on cooperation, power sharing which are hallmarks of administrative conjunction. Administrative conjunction is perceived by Frederickson as “the array and character of formal and informal association between actors representing units in a networked public and the administrative behavior of those actors.” (Frederickson, 1999:708). The south west integration could result in administration that is highly interdependent. This interdependence could lead to extensive conjunction and a remarkably organized pattern of self-cooperation among the states.

Administrative conjunction has the capacity to pull together public management professionals that work for their various states or jurisdictions. In South West Nigeria integration, public management professionals may engage in the conjunction in form of representation of a generalized “public interest” extending well beyond their states. This will facilitate economies of scale, service standardization, efficiency and cost saving.

The Concept of Administrative Conjunction

Administrative conjunction is elsewhere referred to as a collaborative public management (Frederick and Matkin, 2005). In the words of Frederickson (2002), administrative conjunction is best understood as areawide formal and informal horizontal and vertical linkages and patterns of cooperation between public service professionals representing areawide jurisdictions or states. Public administrators practice conjunction with their professional counterparts out of a deep understanding that many public problems can only be dealt with effectively through jurisdictional or state cooperation, and out of a strong sense of jurisdictional or state interdependence. Frederickson noted that Studies of the practices of interjurisdictional networking indicate that leaders spend from 10 to 25 percent of their time outside their jurisdictions in patterns of conjunction with their counterparts.

Because they are paid by jurisdictions (state), how do top public administrators rationalize spending significant portions of their time on conjunction? First, they engage in interjurisdictional conjunction to address problems that cannot be jurisdictionally contained and to, thereby, reduce collective uncertainty and increase the prospects for problem solving. Second, they engage in conjunction based on legitimating professional assumptions of expertise, knowledge and shared beliefs. Third, while top public administrators work for their jurisdictions and serve the people of those jurisdictions, it appears that they practice conjunction in order to serve a larger, inchoate public. Fourth, top public managers engaged in conjunction appear to practice a form of representation, along the lines of the logic of representative bureaucracy. But, the practice of conjunction is not just the representation of jurisdiction residents, it is the pursuit of a more generalized public interest extending well beyond jurisdictional borders. Fifth, public administrators practice conjunction in the shadows of their jurisdictional hierarchies, forgoing time given to internal management for time given to interjurisdictional networking. Sixth, the practice of conjunction allows public managers to preserve

jurisdictional integrity while they work with other professionals to ameliorate problems that cannot be jurisdictionally contained. (Frederickson, 2002)

Administrative conjunction has also been described as "picket fence regionalism," a pattern of formal and informal cooperation within specific policy arenas such as law enforcement or public works (Thurmaier and Wood, 2002). Administrative conjunction is also referred to as collaborative management. In an extensive study of pattern of economic development collaboration, Agranoff and McGuire (2003) indicate that "collaborative arrangements are a unique institutional form consisting of processes different from the spontaneous coordination of markets or the conscious management of hierarchy."

Regional Integration

This simply refers to a process in which states enter into a supranational regional organization in order to increase regional cooperation and diffuse regional tension (Onwuka, 1982). From the economic point of view, regional integration focuses on removing barriers to free trade in the region, increasing the free movement of people, labour goods and capital across national borders, reducing the possibility of regional armed conflict through confidence and security-building measures, and adopting positions which enhances common stand on policy issues. The essence is to precipitate economic advantages to individuals, states and regions (Balassa, 1961, UNECA, 2004).

Regional integration involves a process of increasing interaction and interdependence in the economic and political arena among or group of countries. The extensive body of literature on economic integration has its roots in the world that coincided with the beginning of the European Community, and even pre-dated it (Balassa, 1961, Tinbergen, 1954).

National Integration

Simply put, national integration means state-building, that is the process in which the different people in a state transfer primordial allegiance to one central authority, which becomes the representative of the people, who take conscious steps towards national-building. Nation building as it where, involve the various processes by the central authority (state-building) causes the composite social group to cohere and regard one another as member in the same state with obligation towards one another (Etim and Wilfred, 2013).

National integration can also be viewed as collective effort to bring seemingly loosely structured ethnic societies into the federation can be seen as efforts at engendering centripetality within a federation.

Regional integration: The South Western Nigeria Perspective

The term integration has been subjected to a myriad of interpretations. Onwuka (1982) defined integration as a condition identified with a set of vague symbols or variables or a 'process' identified with an over-increasing degree of structural linkages between two or more parts of a system. However, in dealing with the problems posed, the orientation of this work would include applying the principles of integration in internal integration of hitherto separate peoples or states. Thus this paper translate the principles of removing barriers between people, and the recognition of one central administrative body for all to the processes of state and national-building respectively. The approach would involve examining the administration of integration in the old south western region of Nigeria against the backdrop of the principle of integration. The appreciation of the key-word 'South West Regional Integration' is germane to understanding the challenges posed by the concept. South West Regional Integration as used in this paper refers to the lateral or horizontal processes by which different people in a political community decided to cohere together because they have found themselves in the same region. The different states in the region share functional responsibility and live independently with one another in harmony.

It is instructive to note at this juncture, that one of most consistent element conveyed by the term 'South West Regional Integration' is the bringing together of various parts into a whole. In this context, the administration of South West Regional Integration in Nigeria would refer to the processes of bringing the different states in Western Nigeria to cohere on a continuing basis. The position of the

researcher is that cohering often involves the development of cherished norms and values respected by all the cohering states, so as to ensure that all component parts in the integration process continue to have a sense of belonging to the political/community created. South West Regional Integration should be seen by the integrating states or people as a means of deriving both economic and political advantages.

Finally, regional integration in the South West Nigeria context involves the processes in which hitherto different people or states (South West) enter into an administrative community, in order to be able to obtain for themselves those things they could not individually possess.

Statement of research problem

The idea to integrate the economy of the south-west is rooted in the realization that it makes sense to collaborate across political boundaries because many economic and social issues affecting the region certainly overflow a state's geographical borders. More importantly, the idea of economic integration is inextricably linked to broadened ownership and opportunities. (Akin, 2012)

The south-west definitely shares common problems and frustrations with all Nigerians but with the level of its endowed resources (human and materials), the region could justifiably argue that it has suffered developmental dislocation as a result of the current socio-economic and political structure of the country. Collectively put, the south-west since the exit of late chief Obafemi Awolowo from active politics, can be said to have suffered disarticulation of development agenda that could harness the human and material potentials that are peculiar to the region which apparently distinguish it from other regions in the country. From high rate of unemployment among the region's university graduates, to abandoned farmlands and agricultural products, ineffective mechanisms to deal with such things as capital flows, commodity imbalances, the loss of jobs, as well as rapidly aging population in the rural communities and exodus of its intellectuals to foreign lands at alarming rate, the region faces foreseeable and imminent crises that must be promptly addressed by leaders of the South-West. (Akin, 2012). It is on the bases of this that the work will address the following questions

1. Can regional integration reunite the politically disunited South Western region of Nigeria?
2. Can regional integration serve as a platform upon which the Development of South Western Nigeria can be anchored?
3. Can the integration of the southwestern states restore economic prosperity to the region through industrial and economic activities?

Theoretical Framework

The "Economic Integration Theory" was adopted as the framework for this study. The theory of economic integration is the branch of economics concerned with analyzing the effects of different forms of integration on the economics of member- states and the rest of the world. Economic integration has to do with the unification of economic policies between different states or integrating regions through partial or full abolition of tariff and non-tariff restrictions on trade taking place among them before their integration. This is done in order to lower the prices for distributors and consumers with the goal of increasing the level of welfare, thereby increasing economic productivity of the states. So the South Western Nigeria integration is meant to unify the six states in the South-Western Nigeria administratively, politically and economically in order to boost the welfare of the citizens, and increase economic viability of the region through the abolition of barriers that hitherto existed among the integrating states. These, in the position of this work could be achievable through the instrument of administrative conjunction.

South Western Region: A Review of Literature

The South Western Nigeria is dominated by the Yoruba speaking people. There are several myths surrounding the origin of the Yoruba whichever is the case, there is no doubt that by the eighteenth century, the Yoruba except for the Ijebu sub-tribe, were united into one kingdom ruled from the old Oyo. By 1780 however, they were split into four kingdoms (Oyo, Egba, Ketu and Ijebu) and by

1850, as a result of Funlani conquest of Illorin four new kingdoms emerged -Ibadan, Illesha, Ife, and the Ekiti (Okhaide, 1996:6). By the turn of the twentieth century, when British authority was asserted over Yoruba land (Western Nigeria) additional fragmentation had occurred. Since then the disintegration process has continued.

It is noteworthy to note that inspite of this political fragmentation and regional dialectical differences, a comparatively strong Western (Yoruba) consciousness has persisted. There are seven factors that made this unity and self consciousness among the South Western Nigeria possible. These include: the belief in a common origin, political unity, widespread intermarriage, possession of pan Yoruba deities, high level of westernization, the influence of Christian Missionaries and the contact with the British colonizers leading to the annexation of Lagos by the British Crown by 1861 (okhaide 1996). All these factors distinguish South Western Nigeria from any other geo-political entity in Nigeria.

There is no doubting the fact that Yoruba populate the South Western States of Nigeria and are one of the largest ethnic groups in West Africa and constitute about 21% of the total population of the country. Beyond the shore of Nigeria, some of the indigenous communities of the Yoruba are found in Benin Republic, Brazil, Cuba, Jaimaica and Togo (DAWN, 2015)

The South-West zone is richly blessed with fertile land, vigorous and sturdy people (both indigenes and non-indigenes). A cursory visit to any Yoruba urban centre would not fail to notice the wonderful combination of indigenous industry and genuine participatory efforts of others. (Adeleye, 2013)

It is worthy of note that the Yoruba irrespective of their political affiliations look up to the visionary leadership and achievement of their most revered late sage, Chief Jeremiah Oyeniya Obafemi Awolowo. The region is a region with a very widely-acclaimed sophisticated development orientation. However, the recent political arrangement, especially the over arching centralized structure of the Nigerian federation, has limited the development aspirations of not only the Region, but also the full realization of the potential of all the other parts of the Nigeria state.

The long history of the South Western States in joint economic activities is a legacy they all share as a given whole being developed through the establishment of public enterprises within the region. These legacies, which made the former Western Region of Nigeria first among equals, were in the areas of education, agriculture and food security, industrialization, employment generation, and massive physical and social infrastructures development. They all have their roots in the established public enterprises. Generally, public enterprises in Nigeria were established to propel socio-economic development and to guard against the control of the economy from foreign domination and exploitation. With these enterprises, metamorphosing into Odu'a Investment Company Limited (OICL) the Western Region became the cynosure of the rest of the Federation of Nigeria. For example, there was free education in all parts of the region and the best industrial estates in Nigeria. (Idowu,2015)

Before independence and shortly after, the dividends of south west economic integration were already manifesting. The economic development of the Western Region thus led to rapid infrastructural development, which gave the Region a number of firsts. For example, Western State Broadcasting Corporation came before the FRCN. The region also had the first television house in Nigeria; the government established the first "regional" university in Ife. The first skyscraper in Nigeria was constructed i.e. the Cocoa House, which presently serves as the corporate office of the Odu'a Investment Company. The Polytechnic at Ibadan and the Institute of Agriculture, Research and Training established in 1969 were innovations of the Western regional government. The first specialist hospital, the first industrial estate, the first plantation and the first organized farmers' group who made millionaires out of farmers were all the products of Western regionalism. Qualitative education which inculcated the doctrines of being virtuous into the people was provided in the region for free (Oyedele, 2012).

The richest region among the three regions was the West, by virtue of cocoa productions, early access to western education, the location of much of the industrial development and the presence of Lagos the capital and major port. The West was also favoured after 1954 by the system of revenue allocation in that the principle of derivation applied to agricultural produce and certain imported commodities was prominent. Boosted by large cocoa revenue, the Western Region took over 38% of the statutory revenue allocation in 1954/55 (Forrest,1992). However, the laudable development was

truncated as a result of military intervention in the country's politics with their indiscriminate states creation.

The idea to integrate the economy of the south-west is rooted in the realization that it makes sense to collaborate across political boundaries because many economic and social issues affecting the region certainly overflow a state's geographical borders. More importantly, the idea of economic integration is inextricably linked to broadened ownership and opportunities. (Akin, 2012)

To state that one of the true tests of leadership is the ability to recognize a problem before it becomes an emergency amount to stating the obvious. This is why every progressive in the South-West (irrespective of party affiliation), need to support the vision and efforts of the governors and other leaders to poll the region's resources together for accelerated development that is urgently needed throughout South-West. The Birth of DAWN Commission

As part of their commitment to Regional integration for all-round development of the South-Western Region, the states' governments of the region (South-West Region) set up a commission known as "Development Agenda for Western Nigeria" (DAWN). The DAWN commission office was formally inaugurated in July 2013 as the institutional and programme management body to midwife their regional integration agenda. It is seen as the dedicated technocratic institution for the sustainable development of the South-West Region. In other words, it is the dedicated coordinating agency fully empowered by the government to ensure the delivery of the composite development aspirations of the Region. Mr. Oladipo Famakinwa, was appointed as Director General of the DAWN commission to lead a diverse team of professionals saddled with the responsibility to ensure that the Development Agenda leads to improvement in the well-being of the Region (DAWN, 2015)

Goals/Objectives of DAWN Commission

The goals and objectives of DAWN commission are to:

1. Achieve revenue sufficiency in the Region
2. Attain food security and nutrition, socio-economic transformation, wealth creation and employment generation
3. Become exporter of Agricultural commodities and products to global consumers
4. Achieve Agriculture- linked industrialization for the manufacturing of high quality products for both the local and international markets.
5. Become a reference point as a successful model of Agricultural growth, research and innovation.

The goals set by DAWN are straight forward and unequivocally targeted at agro-based development programme synonymous to replication of the First Republic South-West economy. It does not lose sight of revenue self-sufficiency as a critical factor to developmental take-off perhaps as postulated in the Rostow's linear stages development theory (Todaro and Smith 2011).

Its food security and nutrition wealth creation and employment generation goal addresses major variables of underdevelopment that both millennium development goals and currently the Sustainable Development Goals crystallize. These realities confront most sub-Sahara African Countries today among which Nigeria is out of the worst hit in terms of high rate of unemployment, extreme poverty among majority of the people and extreme hunger. These developmental issues, going by DAWN, can be ultimately addressed through agricultural revolution.

The revolution will invariably lead to industrialization which will have as focus manufacturing of high quality agro-products for both local and international market and which of course will be made manifest/possible by research and innovation.

The goals setters are very conscious of the volatile nature of politics in the South-West and that perhaps is the reason why the focus is about the economic emancipation of the region through harnessing of its natural potentials that are inherent in agriculture. There of course, is the very relevance of administrative conjunction. No matter what political affiliation, the competencies of the divergence can be harnessed through conjunction for the benefit of the entire region.

Possible Benefits from South West Integration in Nigeria

Some notable benefits could be derived from South Western regional integration in Nigeria include; employment generation, conflict resolution, boosting of trading activities within the region, common political will and values to solve immediate and long term problems, exchange of ideas and policies for effective administration, the pulling up of resources for prioritized development and peace among the inhabitants of the southwest.

It also has the tendency of promoting proper federalism which will lead to healthy rivalry among the regions - the type witnessed in the 60s. Other possible benefits that could be derived from such integration are explicated below:

1. **Boosting the Agricultural Sector:** Agriculture, in its diversity, is a major economic component for which the states of the Western region can collaborate for higher productivity. The region possesses potentials to grow different agricultural products and are in different levels of economic development to utilize these products. Yet, a synergy in their exploitation of agriculture for economic development will ensure that, in spite of these differences in potentials, they all leverage on their comparative advantage to the benefit of the people. The DAWN focus/target is a Western Nigeria where the over 20 million people in Lagos state can be daily served with vegetables from the riverine areas of Ogun State, cassava from the vast land of Oyo State, Dodo Ikire from Osun State, fish from the mangrove of Ondo State and the popular pounded yam of Ekiti State. This collaboration if successful in agro-allied development effort can be replicated in other spheres of human endeavors like health, education, sports and other areas where the states can partner for the boosting of their economies. This is necessary to avoid duplication of efforts that has affected synergy and cooperation among them.
2. **Good Road network:** The collaboration and synergy that we advocate, for instance, in the area of roads, would ensure that the major roads that link the states together are done in partnership, thus reducing multiple wastages and guaranteeing efficiency. This administrative collaboration and regional integration should thus form a major strand of the region's overall economic blueprint whose ultimate target is the people of the states in question.
3. **Geographic cohesion:** The compactness and contiguity of the various states that form the Western Region could create regional geographic opportunities in terms of the regional comparative advantage that could be anchored on to bring about growth and development among the integrating states. Critical regional infrastructures that could be of great advantage as a result of geographic nearness include; rail, road, electricity generation, irrigation and telecommunication
4. **Creation of growth poles and economic corridor:** The imperativeness of establishing growth poles and economic corridors among the states involved in the south western Administrative conjunction and integration project cannot be over emphasized. It could create a situation that will spirit the integrating states to reflect on activities that galvanize economic corridors across the partnering entities. This could be in the form of free trade zones, dry ports, transport corridors, and farm settlements among other factors.
5. **Establishment of regional development funds:** It is reasonable to reason at this juncture that when a state as a single entity tends to develop in the absence of sustainable funding; such attempt may end up in a monumental fiasco. So the administrative conjunction and integration of South Western Nigeria is a viable opportunity for the integrating states to establish regional development funds, where fund could be sourced from the partnering states and local government contribution, bond issuance, Diaspora Bond, private sector funding via build-operate and transfer and any other form of equity financing. The states should decide the strategic areas this fund should be allocated to.
6. **Effective governance:** Administrative conjunction and South West regional integration is bound to result in effective governance which is one of the best opportunities for shaping a vibrant future and rural prosperity for those towns and villages throughout the region because it is generally

accepted that effective governance is an amalgam of specific practices that make a difference between stagnant and flourishing communities.

7. Opportunity to leverage on the region's resources: Another possible benefit certain to result from coming together for economic integration is the opportunity to leverage the region's resources, and by leveraging resources, the states are better able to capitalize on competitive advantages of each member state within the integrated region. The regional competitive advantage will inevitably broaden development agenda of the south-west and ultimately improve the living standard of the people.

8. It may enable the component states to spread cost: Administrative conjunction and economic integration in the south-west will also enable the component states to spread costs. Regional economic integration with its concomitant coordination and planning is vital for the success of large capital projects and other undertakings that are too big, too complex or too expensive for individual state government to single handedly address. This practice is bound to create greater unity among the state governments and peoples in the region while the mix of local and state governments, businesses, and professionals in the region will eventually breakthrough institutional barrier lines and capitalize on the skills and resources each sector and jurisdiction brings to the table.

Challenges to South Western Nigeria Integration

It is a fact that cannot be disputed that anywhere, collective decision of a people is being taken, there is bound to be misunderstanding among the actors. And if not properly handled, could lead to violence of various kinds. Below are some of the challenges the South West Nigeria integration may likely face.

Political challenge

A cursory look at the political history of the South West Nigeria reveals that people of the South West Nigeria had never spoken with one political voice, the political violence that erupted in the First Republic and the cross carpeting in the Western House of Assembly, that resulted in what scholars called "Operation Wetti" can attest to this. Bringing together can various states that are presently governed by different political parties (APC and PDP) into one central administrative body may lead to mutual suspicion and disagreement among the states more so as the states may want to bring in their party ideology and orientation to bear on the decisions of the South West Union. This may lead to crisis and if not properly handle could lead to total disintegration of the region.

Differential levels of resource endowment

The states in the South West Nigeria are not equally endowed in terms of financial and other resources. This may lead to a situation where the very rich states such as Lagos may be able to contribute enormously to the central pulse whereas other states may find it difficult to pay their dues. This may lead to a situation where the rich states may want to dominate the poor ones. The poor states may view this as an affront on the integrity of their states especially if such states are governed by a political party different from that of the very rich states. This again may lead to a pull-out from the union.

Conclusion

The politics of South -West is no doubt a very volatile type. Despite that, the South -West majority have always been pro-progressive policies. In the current political dispensation four, notably Lagos, Ogun, Oyo and Osun, belong to the All Progressive Congress (APC) while the duo of Ondo and Ekiti are governed by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). Despite the political heterogeneity, a number of development challenges are common to all the states which have no link whatsoever to political leanings without prejudice to the fact that there are common cultural, geographical and environmental homogeneities that could be leveraged to tackle the developmental challenges. Regional integration if eventually implemented in accordance to the dreams of DAWN is capable of uniting, economically, the entire South -West even where political difference subsist. The economic well-being of the people,

infrastructural deficit elimination, job and wealth creation through agricultural revolution will ultimately dwarf the vicissitudes of political differences in the Region this eventually transforming other region to a politically stable one.

Further to this is the emphasis on agriculture as the very foundation of the development agenda. This is not anything new. It is first a call for a re-enactment of what the Region was known for in the First Republic. The integration will definitely trigger economic prosperity in the region. Agriculture is known to be provider of employment opportunities from the primary production stage, to the primary consumption stage, to the supply of raw materials for industrial purpose and mass production for both domestic consumption and for export. It will not just address the development problem of extreme hunger and poverty by ensuring food security, it will create employment opportunities which in turn will create wealth among the teeming millions.

These being the dividends among a number of benefits, South -West Nigeria Regional integration is capable of being replicated in other regions of Nigeria and by the time that is done, the clamour for political restructuring would have abated considerably. Economic cooperation such as DAWN is proposing for the South -West is pro-poor and it is more of economic restructuring and much better for the masses than political restructuring that is only to feather the nest of privileged political class.

As it has been posited in this paper, the instrument of administrative conjunction will harness the intellectual wherewithal that is abundantly deposited in the South -West Region both within the country and more in diaspora toward achieving the goals of the Development Agenda for Western Nigeria.

A meticulous study of regional integration and administrative conjunction reveals so many advantages the integrating states (South Western Nigeria) could derived from such integration. These include; employment generation, conflict resolution, boosting of trading activities within the region, common political will and values to solve immediate and long term problems, exchange of ideas and policies for effective administration, the pulling up of resources for prioritized development and peace among the people of the South-West.

Administrative conjunction and regional integration has the tendency of promoting proper federalism which will lead to healthy competition among the regions - the type witnessed in the 60s. It would be recalled that Nigeria was on the path of an economic medium power before the First Republic was brought to an abrupt end. This was due to the economic autonomy enjoyed by the regions. However, such autonomy had completely eroded before the commencement of the fourth republic.

Recommendations

For the South-West regional integration to be fully accomplished the following are hereby recommended.

1. Collaborative works agency within DAWN that will see to the construction and rehabilitation of roads that link villages, towns and cities in other region together. The region cannot afford to wait for Federal Government to come and construct her roads.
2. Running of most of her agro-allied investments as business models that would yield returns on their finances which invariably will enable the region create jobs, create wealth and other critical infrastructures in the areas of education and health which are twin development indices according to Todaro and Smith (2011).
3. Introduction of agriculture as a matter of policy, in all public schools from primary to tertiary levels including practicals in specific areas of crop production and animal husbandry. DAWN should give agricultural inputs to such schools. For the private ones, land for agricultural purposes should be part of the qualification criteria for establishment of private schools.
4. Critical to agro-industrial development is provision of electricity. The region should cash-in on the privatization of electricity industry to invest in that sector so as to enhance electricity supply in the region.

5. The DAWN commission should create an administrative structure comprises of all governors of the six state with rotational leadership. The governors should meet regularly to find common solutions to their challenges compare notes and leverage on their comparative experiences.
6. Emphasis should be placed on critical road and rail transport infrastructure that will facilitate easy and swift movement of the people across the region. For instance, the people that live in Osogbo or Ibadan or Abeokuta can travel to Apapa in Lagos State, Agbara in Ogun State or Ikogosi in Ekiti State, within one or two hours to work, can access fresh food from the remote part of the region in its fresh form, attend regional institutions where they will meet and develop friendships with people from across the region, seek and secure employment in any of the south-west states without fear of discrimination and where all states will excel in their areas of respective comparative advantage-all leading to the rapid development of the region, for the utmost wellbeing of the people.
7. The DAWN commission should strive to collapse all the walls such as social, political and legal, that militate against administrative conjunction, integration and development of the old Western region and create quality leadership and collaboration among the states. In the course of this collaborative arrangement and integration, the commission should be empowered to look at areas of cooperation among states and share benefits of states' comparative advantages.
8. The commission should seeks to provide answers to the questions of how to ensure an economy of scale in the economic relations of the region, how to provide the integrative glue to an extensive network of professionals who would perfect the contours of the economic growth and ensure that the Western region sprouts forth from the ashes of decades of inertia. All these are to provide the region with an economic consortium which if put into operation, will drastically improve on the states infrastructural development, education, security and so on thereby lifting the economies of the states.

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